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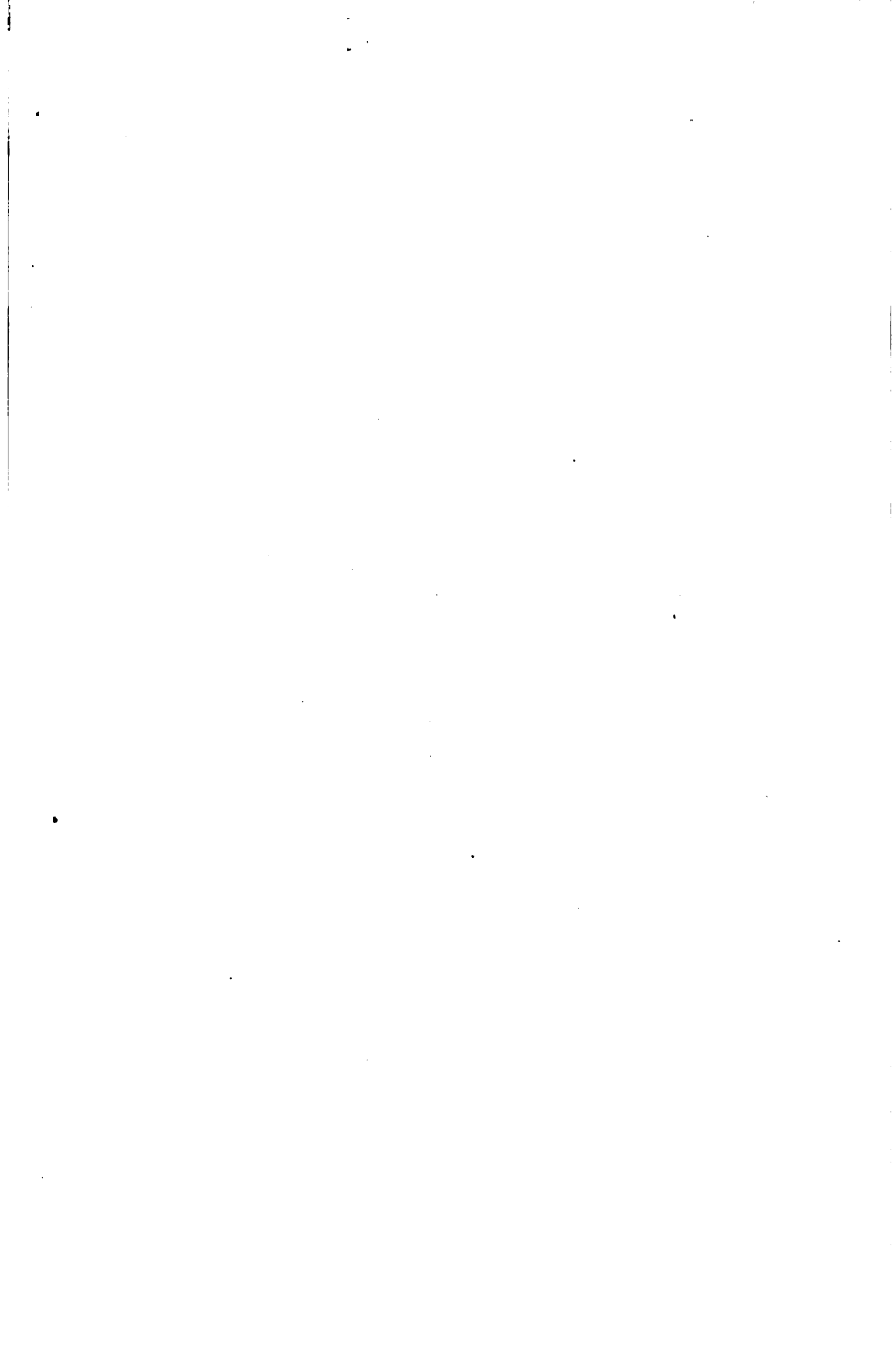
BEQUEST OF

WILLIAM BREWSTER

June 26, 1920.

WILLIAM BREWSTER

JUN 20 1920



Haskell.

American Osprey.

answered.

Wickland N.Y. 10/5/92.

My dear J. L. if possible:

Cambridge, Mass

Dear Madam:

In reply to your postcard

of Sept 30. would beg to state that the
"honey" was suspended on

* Dr. J. L. Haskell, M.D.
Dermatologist and Toxicologist,
100 N. 10th St., St. Paul, Minn.

the copy of the 1st issue, so I have no more.
Brooklyn has all the nos. issued, except
No 1, which is out of print, as there were few
copies of the first number issued.

May I ask a question of you in regard to
Mr Brewster's museum? It is this:

Mr Brewster is the author of a "History of
the Museum" and has Mr Brewster do
most to order? If you will kindly respond
to these "queries" I will be very thankful
obliged to you.

Yours truly,

Thos. H. Johnston

AMERICAN OSPREY.

VOL. I.

ASHLAND, KY., FEBRUARY, 1890.

NO. 2.

ON THE FLORIDA KEYS.

BY HARLOW.

The writer, in company with a friend, had been in camp about two weeks on a charming little key, near the mouth of the Coochee river, a small stream that enters the Gulf of Mexico on the west coast of Florida.

We had hunted and fished to our heart's content in the pine hammocks and about the little ponds of the vicinity, when, one afternoon, my companion suggested a short trip to some of the neighboring islands in search of eggs. So, taking our guns and other implements of the collector's outfit, we stepped aboard our boat and started for Pelican Island. Hardly had we left the little cove, on the shore of which our camp was situated, when among a number of aquatic birds of various kinds, I noticed a splendid specimen of that beautiful bird, the Roseate Spoonbill. Bringing my gun to my shoulder, I fired, and as the birds rose at the discharge, I was delighted to see that the "pink curlew" as the spoonbill is called by the Floridians, remained behind. Quickly securing my trophy, we resumed our course, and in a short time arrived at the island. Here we found that the mangroves and live oaks had all been killed by the excrement of the myriads of Pelicans that nested on the island; indeed, at a distance the trees and bushes had the appearance of being laden with snow, while the ground was covered with guano to the depth of several inches. The dead trees were loaded with the nests of the Brown Pelicans, while the ground was almost entirely covered with their nesting places. The nests on the

trees were rude affairs, composed of sticks, while most of those on the ground were merely a handful of grass or rushes, and many eggs were laid on the bare ground. We frequently found a freshly laid egg, a newly hatched chick and one several times its size, in the same nest, thus showing that the eggs of the bird are laid at varying intervals. Taking to the water by hundreds, the old birds swam gracefully about us, until, having secured a number of specimens, we returned to the boat, whereupon they rejoined their screeching young.

Leaving the island, we next visited a heronry, which was situated on the coast near a belt of cypress that extended for a mile along the coast. On the way thither we passed an extensive buzzard roost, where thousands of buzzards hovered and circled around upon our approach. Reaching the heronry we at once began our quest for specimens, and in a short time we had secured sets of several kinds, among them being the Anhinga or Snake bird, the Spoonbill and the Ibis, besides the Herons, of which latter we observed no less than five species.

Stowing our specimens carefully away, we turned our boat towards the camp and were just rounding the point of a small mangrove island, when we saw a large flock of coots which rose at our approach. As they darted upward in a thick cloud, we both fired and had the satisfaction of dropping eleven of their number, which were soon secured, and after a short run of twenty minutes we reached our destination, where we were soon at work preparing the prizes with which our afternoon search had been rewarded.

Brookline, Mass.

AMERICAN OSPREY.

PAUL B. HASKELL, Editor and Publisher.

Advertising rates furnished on application.

We solicit all correspondence pertaining to Birds, their Eggs, etc.

Subscription, 25c. per year.

The Wolverine Naturalist, edited by Morris M. Gibbs, M. D., Kalamazoo, Mich., published in the interest of the Kalamazoo Naturalist's Association, is a bright and interesting magazine. The Naturalist is highly commended as a work of art and a good medium for advertisers. We trust the "Wolverine and Blue Grass States" will soon rank foremost in the interests of Ornithology and Oology.

The Oologist's Exchange, published by Arthur E. Pettit, Chairman, box 2060 New York City, is before us. One of the special attractions for December, 1889, was an engraving of Wilson, the Ornithologist at work in his studio. We recommend it cheerfully to our patrons and exchanges.

Any notes or articles our patrons may deem interesting, as to the nature and habits of the birds of our country, we would be pleased to receive.

The AMERICAN OSPREY seems to meet with approval, by the number of subscriptions received within the last two weeks. Let the good work continue.

THE CHIMNEY SWIFT.

(Continued from last issue.)

Often during the bright days of early June, they may be seen circling about dead trees of this kind and breaking off the tiny twigs which they carry, one at a time, to their chimney. As might be supposed, the nest is a curious affair and unlike other birds' nests is actually glued together! The nest is started by sticking, with saliva, a semi-circular row of twigs to the inside of the chimney; other twigs are stuck to these and the structure gradually assumes the shape of half-round shelf slightly hollowed on top. There is no lining to the nest and the young must find it a rather uncomfortable bed.

The Swift is a little more than five inches long and twelve inches in extent. In keeping with its sooty surroundings it is brownish-black above, and grayish-brown below, becoming paler on the throat. The eggs are long and pointed, white, and four to six in number; they measure about .75x.50 of an inch.

WILLARD N. CLUTE, Binghamton, N. Y.

BIRDS OF EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA.

Podilymbus podiceps (Linn.), Pied-billed Grebe.—The commonly called "Didapper" may be seen almost any time along any of our small creeks. I have never found a nest of the Carolina Grebe, but am certain that they breed here, as they can be seen at all times of the year.

Urinator imber (Gunn.), Loon.—The Loon may occasionally be seen during the months of December, January and February. They do not breed here.

Aegialitis vocifera (Linn.), Killdeer.—These birds never build here, or at least I have never found a nest or heard of one being found in this locality; and, what is very curious to me, is that they are

abundant at some springs, and others not one is to be seen.

Colinus virginianus (Linn.), Bobwhite.—These birds are very numerous about here, in fact two or three coveys may often be flushed in walking over an old field. I found five nests of this species last season, which contained, respectively; fifteen, ten, thirteen and sixteen, while the fifth I found not a half an hour after the little and old ones had left their nest. The first nest was situated in the woods close by the side of an old log, the second was placed under the chock of a fence while the third and fifth were made in bunches of grass. The eggs were all nest stained.

Meleagris gallopavo (Linn.), Wild Turkey.—This splendid bird is met with quite often in the thick woods and swamps. I remember of seeing a flock of some eighteen or twenty full grown turkeys, and it was a sight to be long remembered. Several people about here have found Wild Turkey's eggs and put them under a hen, but not with good results, for if they hatch the little turkeys would nearly always pine and die.

Zenaidura macroura (Linn.), Mourning Dove.—These birds congregate in flocks during the winter months, (for protection I suppose) and when spring opens they separate in pairs or trios to breed. I have never seen but two Dove's nests. The first, was placed on a pine limb forty feet high, and the other one was in a deserted Green Heron's nest without any repairing. The eggs were two in number and varied in size.

Cathartisaura (Linn.), Turkey Vulture.—These birds are not by any means a nuisance about here, and no land-scape seems complete without them sailing majestically about. I have never found a nest, but am told that they breed in a hollow log along Salmon Creek, an estuary of Albermarle Sound.

(To be continued.)

J. W. P. SMITHWICK,
Sans Souci, N. C.

A GROSBEAK TRIO.

It seems that nature is loth to keep shut deep within the tropics all her gems of color and intricacies of form. She has, therefore, permitted some of her feathered messengers of the seasons to bear away from their winter homes some of its luxuriant wealth of color, and has impressed upon them some of the anatonical characteristics of denizens of a tropic wood.

Though the *Fringillidæ*, of the United States, are for the most part commonplace looking birds, yet in this family, there are several members having highly colored plumage and large beaks, suggestive of a more southern clime. Of these birds the Grosbeaks, though well-known, are of especial interest.

The Cardinal, Rose-breasted, and the Evening Grosbeak, form an interesting trio, since here, in Central Illinois, for the most of the year we have two of them present. The Cardinal, is a resident except perhaps during the severest winters. The Rose-breasted Grosbeak, next in numbers, is here during migrations and almost all summer. The Evening Grosbeak comes down from the North in winter.

In the northern part of the State, I am told by collectors, the Cardinal, is by no means common while in the southern part the Evening Grosbeak does not occur to my knowledge. I have seen this bird only at a point about a hundred and forty miles from the northern line, during a stay of three months, and then only a half dozen individuals. It, however, is a constant winter resident.

The olive and yellow plumage of this bird, excellently harmonizes with the surrounding foliage of the pine and other evergreen trees which it frequents, though this winter this far has been one of the mildest that has occurred for years; the Evening Grosbeak had arrived by the middle of October. Since, I have been unable to be in the field this winter

I have made no notes upon the winter visitants, which were expected in great numbers.

I would suggest that, the readers of this new paper promptly announce through its columns, their observations and encounters with "rare aves" among the winter birds, thus giving a freshness to the contents of the paper, so essential, yet so frequently lacking in some of the publications.

H. F. ANDREWS, Piasa, Ills.

THE SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN.

(*Cistothorus stellaris*.)

I first became acquainted with this extremely interesting little bird during last season, 1889. I found it to be quite common around the borders of ponds and in small sloughs where the grass is heavy and there is not much water. The first eggs of this species taken around here of which I have any record, were found here in the season of '87, in a load of hay. They were unbroken though the hay had been moved, raked and pitched on and off the wagon before the nest, (containing the eggs, two in number) was found. I did not see the bird or find any eggs during 1888, but on June 9 of last year, a nest was found. It had been run over by cattle and contained two whole eggs and several broken ones. July 14, a nest was taken containing six eggs, two of which were broken by the nest falling from my hands. August 4, a friend gave me a nest with seven eggs which he found among some hay. Six of the eggs contained full grown embryos; the other was apparently fresh. I only saved the last one. August 9, I took the only full set I succeeded in saving. It was one of six fresh eggs and now is one of the finest sets in my collection. The eggs of this species are pure white and measure .64x.50 of an inch. The nest is composed of grass, formed in the shape of a cocoanut, with the entrance at the side. It is lined with feathers, fine grass

and sedges. It is placed in the top of a bunch of dry grass and covered on the outside with green grass. This makes it very hard to find even when the bird is around. It is one of the most interesting birds with which I am acquainted, and I have been eagerly looking forward to this year during which, I expect to become better acquainted with it.

JOHN V. CRONE, Marathone, Ia.

Chas. K. Worthen, *NATURALIST AND TAXIDERMIST,*

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References: *Linnaea Naturahistorisches Institut*, Berlin Germany; Thad Sarber, White Sulphur Springs, W. Va., and many others.

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Notices inserted under this heading at the rate of five cents per line, or six lines for twenty five cents.

TO EXCHANGE.—For every complete first-class set of birds' eggs, with data, sent me, I will give a receipt for making Rubber Stamps. Fred W. Stack, Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

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We have been charging \$1 for the instructions of "Gibbs's Embalming Process" for mounting birds, etc. We have made arrangements with the publishers of the *Wolverine Naturalist* so that we can furnish that interesting natural history monthly magazine at fifty cents a year; and also furnish the instructions in embalming free. Address,

C. H. & E. A. GIBBS & Co.,
Kalamazoo, Mich.

AMERICAN OSPREY.

VOL. 1.

ASHLAND, KY., MARCH, 1890.

NO. 3

COLLECTING EXPERIENCE, (OR BETTER, COLLECTING EGGS.)

February 22, 1888 was a very warm, nice day for winter. About ten o'clock I started for the woods, to see what was there. I had gone about half a mile and was walking along an old wood road which was covered with rough ice, when I saw some crows perched on a tree a short distance ahead. I tried to steal up within gunshot of them, and was walking as noiselessly as possible with my gun in the hollow of my arm, doing my best not to be seen by them, when I slipped and fell on the ice, cracking the stock of my gun. The crows flew away, but not without cause. I went home and got my other gun, a muzzle loader, and loading it with coarse shot, started off in the opposite direction to see if I could have better luck there. Although I was gone two hours or more, the only birds I saw were four hawks, probably Red-Shouldered (*Buteo Linneatus*). Such is the scarcity of birds here in winter. These hawks were circling around in the sky, seemingly looking for a place to build a nest. One of them came directly over the spot where I was standing, and although he was fully 200 yards above me, I fired at him. He turned over in the air two or three times and fell a few yards, then caught himself and flew away quite rapidly. I do not think the shot could possibly have reached him—if it did its force must have been spent.

The other pair of hawks stayed over a large swamp all the time. I watched them for more than an hour, and said to myself, "I'll call 'round in about six weeks." I did not get a chance to look them up until April 28. On that day in

company with a friend, I spent several hours in climbing trees and hunting for nests—no, hunting for one nest—in that swamp. I had just struck my climbers into a large pine tree which had a neat looking nest in it about two-thirds the way up, when off flew a large Red-Shouldered Hawk. I jumped for my gun, but too late, so I went back to the tree and up it recklessly fast. I fully expected to find young birds in the nest, but was happily surprised to find instead two eggs, which had probably been used for a chair about two weeks. They were very handsome to my eyes, and it was with fear and trembling and an egg in each vest pocket that I commenced climbing down out of the tree. I could not hug the tree, but I got down just the same, and laid in wait until dusk for Mrs. Red-Shouldered Hawk. But she knew enough not to return, so I went home, somewhat tired and with my neck quite stiff from gazing skyward so much, but happy as a clam at high tide. My sleep was not interrupted that night, however, by "dreams of the events of the day."

The eggs I found to measure about 2.12x1.65. They were of a pale blue ground color, very faintly spotted and blotched with reddish brown, very unlike a set which I took the year before from a tree not more than a half-mile away. This set, which I took April 9, 1887, was the handsomest set of Red-Shouldered Hawk's eggs I ever saw. They were larger than the others, measuring about 2.20x1.70, and were spotted and blotched sharply with reddish brown or umber. The nest was situated on the south side of a large pine tree, about forty feet from the ground, or one-

(Continued on 3d page.)

AMERICAN OSPREY.

PAUL B. HASKELL, Editor and Publisher.

Advertising rates furnished on application.

*We solicit all correspondence pertaining to Birds
their Eggs, etc.,*

Subscription, 25c. per year.

We regret to announce that the Oologists' Exchange has been suspended indefinitely, owing to the sickness of its owners.

The Wolverine Naturalist for February was a 24-page magazine, containing among others, interesting articles on Ornithology and Herpetology.

Correspondents must not expect us to acknowledge the receipt of letters containing remittances for subscriptions. The regular receipt of THE OSPREY will be sufficient notification that the money has been received.

Oological Instructions is to be issued this month by Fred W. Stack, Poughkeepsie, N. Y. Mr. Stack has spared no pains in making it an indispensable work to the student of bird life. It will contain instructions on the collection, and preparation of eggs, etc., for the cabinet, also many other valuable hints for the amateur.

All conchologists who are not subscribers should subscribe immediately to that instructive magazine, The Nautilus, published by W. D. Averell, Mt. Airy, Philadelphia, Pa., at \$1 per year. The Nautilus was formerly published by Mr. Averell as The Conchologists' Exchange. It is highly recommended by all students of that science.

THE OOLOGICAL USE OF BIRD LIME.

I have read of a great many more ways in which to catch birds for identification while collecting their eggs, but can find none quite as successful, after trying them, as one used by myself for a number of years with greatest success. The method is about as follows:

First. Secure some bird lime (you can purchase it at any house dealing in Naturalist's supplies at about thirty cents per box) and pack it away with your blowpipes, drills, etc., in your field implement box.

Second. Go to the fields and woods. Here snugly hid away in some brush you'll find a small nest containing pretty, little spotted eggs. You wonder where the owner is! She is somewhere near eyeing you all the while but you can't see her. You are not certain of the identity of the eggs. Well, take from your box of bird lime a small quantity on a spoon or some piece of metal and smear it on the twigs near the nest, leaving the eggs in all the while. Now retire from sight of the nest behind some convenient tree, and await developments. Directly you see a small bird come cautiously hopping from twig to twig gradually approaching the nest and lime. Be quiet. Now she hops on to the twig smeared with lime and is held, she struggles, flops her wings and finds her feathers stuck together and at last gives up. Now cautiously go forward and catch the bird and, if you have your Manual along, as you always should, identify it, take it to some neighboring stream, wash it thoroughly and set it free, and you have accomplished a double purpose, i. e. saved the life of a feathered creature and identified your eggs beyond dispute.

While you have the female in hand she will be apt to give some cry which will nearly always bring the male to the spot when he can be secured if desired by putting the female in a small box (cage) and smearing the top with lime.

Hoping my readers will at least give this a trial, I close. THAD. SURBER.

BIRDS OF EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA.

Catharista atrata (Bartr.), Black Vulture.—This species is not quite so common as the former, but are just as beneficial. I do not know whether they breed here or not, but think that they do, as they can be seen at all times.

Buteo lineatus (Gmel.), Red-sholdered Hawk.—This Hawk the most numerous of all hawks, always builds its nest in the highest trees it can find, which is nearly always a cypress, but sometimes a pine. The nest is composed of coarse twigs, and finer material, and lined with moss with a few feathers from the breast of the mother bird. The eggs number from two to four sometimes five, and are about as handsome as any you will find. They are generally dirt color, spotted and blotched with umber and brown.

Falco sparverius (Linn.), American Sparrow Hawk.—This stately little Hawk is not very common; but I believe that there are one or two pair to every farm, where they are very efficient in keeping the larger Hawks from catching the farmer's poultry. They always build in some dead stump or tree, occupying a deserted Flicker's nest or knot hole. I have never taken any eggs, and have never found many nests. One, I recollect was in the top of a pine stump sixty feet high. The excavation that the Hawks occupied served as a home for a pair of flying squirrels the winter before.

Bubo virginianus (Gmel.), Great Horned Owl.—The largest Owl with ear-tufts is not very well represented in this locality. It is not very often that one's long hoot can be heard, and when it is it creates an impression not to be very soon forgotten especially by the "small boy." Bubo breeds here in the latter part of February and the first of March.

Megascops asio (Linn.), Screech Owl.—The "Shivering Owl" as it is commonly called, can be heard uttering their

unearthly cry nearly any night. I have never found a nest, but have heard of them being found about here.

Ardea virescens (Linn.), Green Heron.—This species is the most common of the Herons that nest in this locality. They generally nest in pine-thickets where it is convenient to obtain food, sometimes building in nearly every bush available. They never build more than twenty-five feet high, and sometimes as low as five or six feet from the ground. Their nests are poor affairs, and are made of sticks and twigs the size of a lead pencil, formed into a kind of a platform with a little hollow in the middle for holding the eggs. Sometimes the eggs roll out of the nest in a gentle breeze. The eggs are generally four but often three sometimes five; are pale blue and about the size of Common Crow's eggs. I have found nests that contained three eggs with incubation far advanced, while, on the other hand I have found nests with five fresh eggs. A set of four in my cabinet presents the following measurements, viz: 1.54x1.11, 1.47x1.12, 1.56x1.16, 1.46x1.13.

J. W. P. SMITHWICK, Sans Souci, N. C.

(Continued from 1st page.)

third the way up, and composed of dead pine, oak and maple sticks, lined with bark, pine needles, feathers etc. I noticed marks on this tree which showed me that some one had climbed it recently, so, after securing the eggs I wrote "too late" on a card and pinned it on the tree. I heard from it later. My companion and I then made a blind by leaning some dead wood against another pine tree near by and covering it with brush. We concealed ourselves in this and in about an hour the female hawk came back and lighted near the nest, but on the side of the tree away from us. We did not fire, hoping that she would come nearer to us where we could have a better shot, but instead she flew off and we saw no more of her, although we waited several hours.

CLARENCE W. ROWLEY, Ellis, Mass.

NESTING OF THE YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO.

(*Coccyzus americanus*) Linn.

This bird familiarly known as Rain Dove or Rain Crow, breeds all through the Eastern United States except in the extreme South where its place is taken by the Mangrove Cuckoo. It is common throughout its range. The nest is placed in some low tree or shrub, from five to eighteen feet from the ground. It is a frail structure rudely made of twigs, leaves, catkin and pieces of bark. Frequently the eggs may be seen through the thin nest. The nest is about five inches in diameter and has about three-fourths of an inch depression. Fresh eggs may be found from the middle of May until the first of September. The eggs are deposited at intervals of three or four days and it is owing to this that incubated and sometimes young are found in the same nest with fresh eggs. The eggs are from two to five in number, and when fresh have much the color of Green Heron's eggs; but when exposed to the light or when incubated the color becomes lighter. Eggs of the Yellow-Billed and Black-Billed Cuckoos are frequently found in the same nest, and rarely in the nests of other birds, most always the nests of the Robin, Catbird, Mourning Dove, Cardinal Grosbeak and Cedar Waxwing. The eggs are elliptical in form and average in size 1.27x.83.

E. S. P., Polk Co., Iowa.

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W. W. Ashe,
Raleigh, N. C.

AMERICAN OSPREY.

VOL. 1.

ASHLAND, KY., APRIL, 1890.

NO. 4.

THE OSPREY.

*The Osprey sails above the sound,
The geese are gone, the gulls are flying.*

—Alexander Wilson.

In this locality (Boston, Mass.) the male birds begin to arrive about the middle of April and sail above the sound, and also look for a nesting-site in some large tree. They are not very partial to any special kind of tree, for a pine, oak, maple or almost any large tree near water is good enough for them. Often they use the same nest for years if not disturbed too much, but if disturbed they usually retire to a more secluded locality, sometimes even away from the water. After the males have been here a week or two the females come, and together they build a nest or patch up their old one, often making it four feet in diameter and as deep as it is wide. It is composed of sea-weed, sticks and sometimes in May contains two, three or four eggs, which (provided the nest is not found by some small boy able to climb up to it) in due course of time turn into young Fish Hawks. The eggs may be almost any size from 1.60x2.30 to 1.90x2.56, (Maynard) creamy or purplish, spotted and blotched with brown or umber. Ospreys never quarrel, and when once mated I think they are mated for life—differing from some of the genus homo who profess to be human in this respect. They are of so peaceful a disposition that other birds, especially grackles, often place their nests in the same tree with the Osprey's and sometimes even among the sticks which compose its nest. And well they may be of a peaceful disposition, for though called carnivorous they never eat anything but

fish, which they always catch themselves, but they do not eat all the fish they catch by any means, for only too often they get their ducking and their fish only to be robbed by the Bald Eagle. The Osprey is not often found far from water. I know of one instance where one was blown inland a distance of fifteen miles by a hard storm, where he alighted on the top of a tall flagstaff and was shot. He, or rather she, now occupies a place in the cabinet of a friend and companion of mine on many a collecting trip.

"He" (the Osprey) is a large female, more than two feet long; color, above, dark umber brown, beneath, pure white, with a few slight spots of yellowish brown on the breast—a beautiful specimen.

Sometimes I see two or three Ospreys ten or fifteen miles inland during the migrations, but they are usually very high up and can only be seen to good advantage with a powerful glass, but their long, curved wings can be seen well with the naked eye, though a glass often makes the identification more positive.

* * *

HINTS FOR OOLOGISTS.

The season is nearly here when you will be in the woods and fields hunting for birds nests and eggs.

Have your instruments in first-class order, and have them where you will know where they are at once.

Never take a set for the fun it affords, and always fill out a data blank for every set of eggs taken.

It is a good plan to collect nests too, and all one needs to collect them is a basket and spool cotton to wrap the nests

(Continued on 3d page.)

AMERICAN OSPREY.

PAUL B. HASKELL, Editor and Publisher.

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We take pleasure in announcing the new publication of "a royal octavo volume," embracing the finest engravings on plate paper 7x10 inches, entitled "Methods in the Art of Taxidermy," by Oliver Davie, Columbus, Ohio. The engravings will be the finest of the kind in the United States, taken from Indian Ink drawings, and a student in Taxidermy after studying this work, however, inexperienced, can lay the book aside and proceed to preparing birds with no other assistance. We heartily commend this most excellent work to our readers as the publication will not be made unless 500 subscriptions are sent in. The work will be fully guaranteed and the subscribers may pay the price of the book when delivered. This work embraces all that any amateur needs in this line, besides being a helpful work, its beauty and artistic skill will find a welcome in the library of any friend of the feathered tribe, a study becoming necessary as the elementary principles of a common school. This work will be ready shortly after the 500 names have been received, and no one can possibly regret having extended assistance in bringing it before the public. Blanks furnished on application by writing to this office or Mr. Davie. Price \$5 when delivered. If you wish to subscribe to this work, please send your name immediately, so that it will be issued soon as possible.

The Erie Harbor. Edited by J. C. Thoms, A. M., Erie, Pa., four pages, at fifty cents per year. We commend this paper to the christian public as worthy of their patronage.

Mr. F. W. Stack, Poughkeepsie, N. Y. writes us that his intended work "Oological Instructions," has been delayed, but purchasers will be more than pleased with it.

Mr Geo. W. Vosburg, Columbus, Wis. has our thanks for a handsome drawing of the Black-cap Titmouse. It is an excellent drawing and is very life-like.

The Observer, Nos. 1 and 2, Vol. 1. Published by E. F. Bigelow, Portland, Conn., at fifty cents per year. Devoted to all the natural sciences.

Catalogue from Chas. K. Worthen, Warsaw, Ill., price list of native birds and mammal skins, embracing nearly 800 skins.

Price lists, etc. from R. W. Mercer, 147 Central Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio of Coins, Stamps, Confederate Notes, etc.

Catalogue from F. M. Kinne, Knoxville, Iowa, dealer in Minerals, Birds' Eggs and Indian Relics.

The Naturalist, Kansas City, Kansas. fifty cents a year, eight pages. Full of interesting matter.

BIRDS OF EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA.

Corvus americanus (Aud.), American Crow.—These birds puzzle me more than any other species in this section. I can not account for the great flocks of Crows that I see going South in Autumn. If they all went South it would be very plain, but some stay here all the time. Crows make the best pets, (I think) of any other birds about here. I have never taken any eggs, but have found

several nests. They always build their nests in the highest pines that they can find, and it is nearly impossible to get the eggs. The nests are composed of coarse twigs with a lining of mud, then lined with finer material. The nests are made so thick that ordinary shot will not penetrate them.

Ceryle alcyon (Linn.), Belted Kingfisher.—This is the only representative of this class in this locality. Their clear, crackling sound may be heard along any of our small streams. A pair builds in a bank near here occupying the same hole every Spring. The Kingfisher can not be surpassed in beauty of dress by any bird in this locality, according to my notion.

Ardea herodias (Linn.), Great Blue Heron.—I am not aware of any of these Herons building here, but think that they do; because in the spring pairs and trios may occasionally be seen, lazily flapping toward some pond or river in search of food.

Ardea candidissima (Gmel.), Snowy Heron.—Last spring I remember a sight that was worth seeing—a whole flock of Snowy Herons feeding along the side of the Roanoke river, and as I approached them, they arose in one grand column, forming a magnificent scene of snow-white forms ascending to a dizzy height. I do not know if they breed here.

Falco columbarius (Linn.), Pigeon Hawk.—This diminutive Hawk is seen only occasionally. I have information at hand, that about thirty years ago a nest of this species was found here which contained young; but I do not know with certainty whether they breed here or not.

Antrostomus vociferus (Wils.), Whip-poor-will.—The lonesome cry "whip-poor-will" may be heard all through the spring and summer until about the middle of June. I have never found any nests of this species.

Antrostomus carolinensis (Gmel.), Chuck-will's-widow.—This species is much more common than the last named. They arrive about the middle of May and proceed to make arrangements for housekeeping. The nest is always a place cleared of leaves and slightly depressed in the ground, and situated near some old log or stump. The eggs, always two in number, are beauties indeed. They are pure or creamy white, thickly marked and blotched with lilac and grey. Usual size 1.40x1.08.

(To be continued.)

J. W. P. SMITHWICK, Sans Souci, N. C.

(Continued from 1st page.)

with to prevent them from coming to pieces.

Refer to your works on oology and be well posted on the time when each species begins to build, and by so-doing you will be able to obtain fresh eggs.

Never take a set unless you have means to identify it and if you do take it, keep it apart from your identified specimens.

When you go collecting always carry a note-book to note down every thing concerning the nests you find, their situation, etc.

Always have a nice cabinet for holding your eggs. Spool cotton cabinets serve the purpose very well for small eggs, and are cheap.

The way I save many climbs is; I have a little looking-glass fixed on the end of a pole at right angles, and hold it over the nest. If there are any eggs you will be sure to see them in the glass.

It is a good plan to have an egg register to register all the sets you take in, with number of eggs in each set, their size and a full description of the nest.

Never strive to outdo another collector in collecting the most eggs regardless of what species they are. But strive to make your collection a scientific one.

Two sets of each species every season is enough to suffice the wants of any true oologist, indeed every body should limit their number to two sets.

J. W. P. SMITHWICK, Sans Souci, N. C.

SOME GENERAL FACTS ABOUT BIRDS.

The prolongation or crest of the sternum of a bird accurately determines the degree of power of flight of its possessor.

The merry-thought, or "wish-bone" is found only in birds that have flight.

The powers which some birds have of erecting their crests at leisure, is due to the air-cells which extend even to the quill feathers.

The powerful songs of birds are due to the immense volume of air they are able, by means of these air-cells, to take into their bodies; and expel it at ease,

In the markings of eggs, circular spots denote deposition of pigment while the egg is at rest.

Blurred markings show its deposition while the egg is in motion, and this motion would seem often to be at once onward and rotary, as indicated by the spiral markings.

There are more markings at the larger end of an egg, because that end is protruded first.

It is a remarkable fact that the surface of some eggs instead of being a convex surface, are sensibly concave as in some of the Snipes and Plovers.

One reason why the eggs of some birds are not in proportion to the size of the parent; is that the eggs of those birds which quit the nest soon after they are hatched, and which are consequently more fully developed at birth, are very large. Also, the number of eggs to be covered at one time, has some relation to their size.

NEIL F. POSSON, Medina, N. Y.

AN EXCHANGE.—Will have sets of 3, 4, 5 and 6 eggs of Brown-headed Nuthatch to exchange the coming season for all kinds of first-class eggs with data. Send lists. J. W. P. SMITHWICK, Sans Souci, N. C.

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AMERICAN OSPREY.

VOL. I.

ASHLAND, KY., MAY, 1890.

NO. 5.

BIRD STUDIES.—I.

THE ROBIN.

BY PICUS.

Probably the best known bird in North America is the American Robin. He claims the whole continent as far south as Mexico for his own, and takes possession with such a familiar manner as to quite win him the respect and good-will of everyone. During the colder months of the year the Robins desert the northern half of the continent, but when spring comes the birds go north to breed, leaving much of the southern half to await their return in the fall.

The Robin is a varied and voluble singer, and one of the foremost in the early morning choir; his voice is heard during most of the summer, for he seldom ceases his song till the third brood of young has flown.

The Robin usually prefers to nest in propinquity to man, placing his nest almost anywhere, about the house, on a stump, in the orchard, on the ground or in a hole in a tree—all are alike to him, and the nest is the same rude affair of grass and mud. The eggs are almost invariably four.

After the cares of incubation are over, the Robin draws away from mankind and seeks the company of other Robins; in large flocks they leisurely feed through the lazy autumn days spending their time in the woods and adjacent fields.

The food of the Robin consists of many kinds of insects, berries, etc., but his favorite diet is earthworms; in quest of these he may often be seen on the lawn at dawn with plumage all bedraggled with dew. During cherry and berry time the gardener is never the Robin's friend but he is his only enemy.

THE PRAIRIE HEN.

(*Tympanerchus Americanus*)

This species, though still quite common, is gradually disappearing each year owing to the country becoming more thickly settled, and to the hunters, who make to hunt them for the markets. They are protected by law from sometime in the winter to the first of September. As soon as the law is up the hunter with his dog and gun starts out. Pointers and setters are used. The hunter starts out over the prairie and around the borders of stubble fields. When the dog strikes a trail and the hunter with his gun cocked and held in the handiest position, follows, urging him on. Soon, whizz! whirr! the chickens rise out of the long grass,—bang! bang! goes the gun, and down comes a couple of the luckless birds. The rest are "watched down," and soon as those shot are secured and the hunter is satisfied that there are no others hiding around he strikes for the place where they lit. Sometimes nearly a whole covey will be secured in this way. It is fine sport to hunt them if one has a good dog. They breed in the tall prairie grass commencing to lay during the latter part of April. From twelve to fifteen eggs are laid. They are nearly white when laid, but are soon stained to a dirty yellow by the material of the nest. They are sometimes spotted quite profusely with fine blackish specks. I have one that has spots on it as large as the head of a shingle nail. The nest is merely a hollow in the ground lined with grass.

Prairie fires destroy great numbers of eggs each year. The collector by following the track of one of these fires can

(Continued on 3d page)

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3000 AMERICAN OSPREYS for July.

One Dime, published by C. W. Peugh, Salem, Ind., is a neat little monthly devoted to Philately.

The Handbook of the Wilson chapter Agassiz Association, published by O. P. Hauger, Orleans, Ind., contains full plans, etc., of that Association.

The Maine Ornithologist and Oologist is a new paper devoted to the science, published by H. S. Sawyer, Garland, Me. We wish Mr. Sawyer success with his new monthly.

We regret to announce that Mr. F. E. Beach, Chatham, N. Y. intends to discontinue the publication of The Owl. The Owl has many friends who will be sorry to hear of its suspension.

We will issue for our July number 3000 extra copies, and that our advertisers may take benefit of our columns we will make our low rates known upon application. Send in your ads. early.

We acknowledge the receipt of a complete file to date, of the Ornithologists' and Oologists' Semi-annual, a 50-page illustrated magazine. This handsome magazine cannot fail to please all who patronize it and we heartily commend it to our patrons and others who are interested in this beautiful science.

BIRDS OF COLUMBIA COUNTY WISCONSIN.

The Scarlet Tanager, (*Pyranga rubra*) is I think one of our most beautiful summer birds. The male is deep scarlet with glossy black wings and tail, and the female olive green, with lighter under parts. It builds its nest in some high tree in the woods, or some low branch in an orchard, it is built of small tough rootlets, and is a very frail structure. The eggs number from three to five, are light blue, spotted and blotched with pale reddish-brown, with pale markings of lilac. Average size .95x.65.

The Ruby-throated Humming-bird. (*Trochilus colubris*) This is one of our summer birds, or our little fairy. I cannot give a correct description of its colors. I have a nest and one egg of this bird. The nest is made of moss and cottony substance with lichen glued all over it. The egg is white and measures .44x.33 in. There were two eggs when the nest was found, but the boys who found it divided the eggs between them, and I succeeded in getting only one egg and the nest.

Whip-poor-will, (*Caprimulgus vociferus* Wils.) one of our nocturnal birds is about seven inches long and very plump; its color is sooty-black spotted with white. It has a very short wide beak, which is black, the feet and eyes are also black. The Whip-poor-will lives on insects which it catches while on the wing. The eggs are laid on the ground in the woods, on some leaves near a clearing. I have never found any nests, but know a boy who has found three nests of two eggs each. I have a second-class egg which I was told is a Whip-poor-will's egg; it is china white faintly spotted with brown and lilac; it is elliptical in shape, size about 1.20x.80.

(To be continued.)

Geo. W. Vosburg,
Columbus, Wis.

(Continued from 1st page.)

secure a great many singles, those in the center of the nest being allright, while those around the outside are badly burned and cooked.

The Prairie Hen is resident here. During severe winters the greater part of them leave this immediate vicinity and go to the Little Sioux river, ten miles west of here, where they are better protected by the trees. Sometimes when the snow is deep they will burrow in it after food or else for protection from the cold.

JOHN V. CRONE,

Marathon, Iowa.

BIRDS OF EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA

Chaetura pelagica (Linn.), Chimney Swift.—These stately little birds add greatly to the beauty of a summer evening by sailing and twittering around and around the house-tops until sunset, when they all join together and sail around once or twice twittering with all their might, and then repair to some neighboring chimney to pass the night. I do not think that these birds ever "light" on a tree; they gather sticks while on the wing, flying swiftly by and catching a dead limb in its mouth, gives it a sudden twitch, breaks it off and carries it down the chimney and fastens it with saliva glue. The eggs are pure white and do not differ materially from Bank Swallow eggs.

Trochilus colubris (Linn.), Ruby-throated Humming-bird.—The only representative of this beautiful family east of the Mississippi is quite common here, and their graceful form may be seen in our gardens any summer evening.

Tyrannus carolinensis (Linn.), King-bird, Bee Martin.—The king of birds exercises his authority to an unlimited extent in this locality. He meets with no opposition whatever, from any of the birds and receives the protection of man,

while sitting perched on some tip-top bough and looks around as much as to say: "I'm monarch of all I survey." They build their nests in exceedingly difficult places to get at, and lay four or five speckled eggs.

Myiarchus cinetus (Lynn.), Crested Flycatcher.—This species is frequently mistaken for the Wood Thrush by the so called, "jack leg" ornithologists of this locality. The eggs of this species have no semblance to those of any other species that I have seen. These birds seem to be partial to cast off snake skins, one or two of which can nearly always be found in the material which compose the nest.

Empidonax acadicus (Gmel.), Acadian Flycatcher.—I am not positive as to whether this species is a resident or not, but it may be frequently met with in the summer along the shaded ravines where it builds its nest in the long festoons of moss and lay two, three or four cream colored eggs, finely dotted with chocolate at the large end.

Cyanocitta cristata (Linn.), Blue Jay.—This noisome bird is not represented here as well as it might be. They are influenced by the crop of beech nuts and acorns, of which they are very fond, and in consequence of which they are very common some winters while in others you scarcely see one.

(To be continued.)

J. W. P. SMITHWICK,
Sans Souci, N. C.

THE COMMON CROW.

On the twentieth of last July, a friend and I went swimming; but instead of going in at the usual place we walked about two miles up the Raccoon river. That day we had very good luck and we took many sets of eggs.

Well, when we got up a ways we saw a crow on the very top of a big elm tree that stood on the other side of the river,

on this side (the side we were on) the bank sloped gently to the waters edge, but on the other side was a very high bank. My companion brought his shot gun to his shoulder to shoot, but I stopped him and shot my rifle at it at long range; but of course, missed. On watching the bird I was surprised to see two birds fly up, one from a nest I had overlooked and the other, the one I had shot at. I swam across but couldn't make the bank and had to come back. Then we went up stream about half a mile farther and got across, we got several nests on the way up, but none of much value. When we got back to the Crow's nest, I went up with the aid of my climbers. It was situated about three-fourths of the way up and out a ways on a limb. The nest was made of sticks, and a few leaves loosely woven together. The nest was fourteen inches across and contained four eggs of a greenish color, streaked and spotted with brownish-green. They measured about 2.68x1.14.

L. B., Des Moines, Iowa.

FOR SALE.—I have had a small collection of birds' eggs placed in my hands for sale. Many desirable eggs. I am offering bargains. NEIL F. POSSON, Medina, N. Y.

TO EXCHANGE.—Eggs in sets, also a fine Compound Microscope, magnifying power 2400 times. Will exchange for eggs or young hawks or will pay case for same. ERNEST S. PARK, 829 18th St., Des Moines, Iowa.

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AMERICAN OSPREY.

VOL. I.

ASHLAND, KY., JUNE, 1890.

NO. 6.

BIRD STUDIES.—II.

THE BLUEBIRD.

BY PICUS.

It is safe to say that the Bluebird stands next to the Robin in the affections of everybody. The Robin is called a thief by the angry gardener whom he has despoiled, but the Bluebird has not a single bad habit to count against him; he gets his living in a legitimate way, never provokes a quarrel with his neighbors, and devotes his entire attention to bringing up his family in the way they should go.

In this latitude (42°) the Bluebird is the very first spring bird to arrive; he may be looked for about the middle of February, two or three weeks in advance of the Robin, but it is only the more venture-some birds that come so early, the bulk of the flock come with the first Robins.

Unlike some other birds, the Bluebird never seems to sing for effect, though his soul is so full of music that he fairly bubbles over with it. In spring he is constantly heard as he flits from one desirable nesting-place to another, or perches on a slender spray in the tree-tops. The whole burden of his song is cheerily, cheerily delivered in a delightfully liquid whistle. After nidification the song ceases for the summer.

The Bluebird's original nesting place was in a hole in a tree, and a great part of the race still nest in such situations, but the bird houses which man erected soon attracted their attention, and such a house properly placed seldom goes long untenanted. The Martins, Tree-sparrows and Wrens, for whom the houses were built, often challenge the

Bluebird's title to such a residence, and long and stubborn warfare is waged for possession. The numerous holes in the apple trees make the orchard the next best place to nest in, and the Bluebird is always mentally associated with the orchard on that account.

The nest is composed exteriorly of soft grasses and lined with horse hair, feathers and wool; the eggs are seldom more than five in number, pale blue, sometimes white. Three broods are often reared in a season, the same nest with a few alterations answering for all. In the five years that Bluebirds have nested in the writer's bird houses, they have never failed to pay a visit to their nesting-place before going south in the fall.

The Bluebird ranges from the southern states to northern New England and west to the Rocky mountains.

BIRDS OF COLUMBIA COUNTY WISCONSIN.

Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*). This bird is quite abundant here, and as every one knows it builds no nest for itself, but deposits its egg or eggs in other bird's nests. The greatest number I ever read of being found in one nest was four, but I once found a nest with six Cowbird's in it, and apparently all laid by the same bird and all fresh; I had the misfortune to break them all. There were no other bird's eggs in the nest, the Cowbird's eggs were warm. There was no other collector near that I know of. The nest was perfectly built of small twigs and weeds and placed snugly in a brush pile.

(Continued on 2d page.)

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Just think of it! 3000 extra copies of the AMERICAN OSPREY, besides our regular issue, for July. Those wishing to advertise in our July number must send in their ads. before June 20. Write to us with copy and we will give you reduced rates. Those that write first will get best place.

We will send the AMERICAN OSPREY six months, also one hundred data blanks, bound with a substantial and handsome binding for only twenty cents. Dealers usually charge twenty-five cents for the same blanks alone. This is a rare offer. Send at once before the supply of blanks is exhausted.

Those desiring to purchase Indian Relics, Oologist's supplies, etc., will do well to write to Mr. F. M. Kinne, Knoxville, Iowa. Mr. Kinne has established a worthy reputation in this line of trade, and as his business is constantly increasing he has removed to larger and more spacious quarters, where he can better accommodate his numerous patrons. Those dealing with him will find that he is an honest gentleman and means all he says.

BIRDS OF COLUMBIA COUNTY WISCONSIN.

(Continued from 1st page.)

Quail were formally very abundant here, but are scarce ever seen now. About ten years ago we had a flock of Quail, numbering about one hundred, that we fed every morning and evening by our straw stack, but a neighbor shot them all off during the fall, in a sneak-thief way. I have never found a Quail's nest that I know of, but have seen many a mother Quail and her five, six or seven little babies sitting in a row on a fence. I have but one first-class Quail egg in my collection.

The Belted Kingfisher is not very abundant, but within my time of collecting I have found several nests one containing fourteen eggs badly incubated, of which I saved one, which is second-class, the only one I have. It is nearly round and white and measures 1.32x1.06.

GEO. W. VOSBURG,
Columbus, Wis.

BIRDS OF EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA

Corvus frugivorus (Bartr.) Common Crow.—Of all the birds that seem to have any thing to do, the Crow seems to be the busiest. He has to keep the Hawks straight, and has to keep a watch on every body that comes in sight, and make himself useful (?) in general. In this locality, Crows build in the highest pines available, and make their nests of sticks and twigs with a layer of mud and lined with finer material.

Dolichonyx oryzivorus (Linn.) Bobolink.—Some springs the Bobolinks are very numerous while in others not one can be seen. Transient visitor.

Sturnella magna (Linn.) Meadow Lark.—The Meadow Lark is a very pretty bird, (according to my notion) with its

speckled breast and walk of a chicken. I do not think that any stay here through the summer, although they are quite plentiful in the winter.

Icterus galbula (Linn.), Orchard Oriole.—Seen only during the migrations, but sometimes a few remain to breed.

Spizella domestica (Frost.), Chipping Sparrow.—In the fields and orchards in the summer time you can't see or hear anything but Mr. Chippy, and perhaps his family in some neighboring tree. This species build quite a neat little nest and lay from three to four pale blue eggs which are speckled with brown.

Junco hyemalis (Linn.), Slate-colored Junco.—The pretty little snow birds add very much to the scenery of a snow covered field with their pleasant forms flitting about as if they loved the snow, and I believe they do. They depart in the last of March.

Cardinalis virginianus (Briss.), Cardinal Grosbeak.—The Redbird with his splendid dress cuts a figure among the plainer clad birds. He seems to know the gaudiness of his dress and plays the best part imaginable among the other birds.

Pyrranga aestiva (Linn.), Summer Tanager.—This species arrive sometime in April and depart in September. They are not protected by the farmers because they have a fondness for bees. They will sometimes sit around a hive for hours going "schnipp, schnipp" at the bees.

Progne subis (Linn.), Purple Martin.—Summer resident. Arrives in the first of April and leaves in September. They generally build in boxes put up for their accommodation by the benevolent farmer who seem to want them to build near the house to keep the much dreaded Hawks from their poultry.

(To be continued.)

J. W. P. SMITHWICK,

Sans Souci, N. C.

THE AMERICAN LONG-EARED OWL.

The Long-eared Owl is one of our most common Owls, but on account of its nocturnal habits is hardly ever seen; and thought by many persons to be rare. It is distributed throughout North America and is found in most any kind of woods. It may be generally described as of a buff color mottled and spotted with brown and grey.

It breeds wherever found. The nest is usually an old Crow's or Hawk's nest repaired with a few sticks and feathers, although it sometimes builds in a hollow tree or stump. The nest in most cases is about twenty feet from the ground and it is most always in a small oak or evergreen tree. The eggs are white and oval in shape, and are from three to six in number. The average size of eggs found by me is 1.62x1.34. One egg measured 1.65x1.35. The number found here is most always four, sometimes five. In Iowa the eggs are disposed most any time in April. The time for looking for a complete set of fresh eggs is in the second week in April.

April 8, 1890, I found two nests of this Owl each containing three fresh eggs. Both nests were old Crow's and both were in oak trees about twenty feet from the ground. Within thirty feet of one nest was a Crow's nest containing four eggs. April 11, I found three more nests. The first was in a box elder tree about fifteen feet from the ground. It contained four fresh eggs. Nothing was added to this nest by the Owl except a few feathers. The next nest contained five eggs, incubation begun. The next was in an oak tree, and like all the other nests of this bird that I have found this season, was a Crow's nest. The other nest contained no eggs although the Owl flew off.

"E. S. P.,"

Des Moines, Iowa.

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AMERICAN OSPREY.

VOL. I.

ASHLAND, KY., JULY, 1890.

NO. 7

BIRD STUDIES.—III.

THE SONG SPARROW.

BY PICUS.

When the young ornithologist comes to studying the sparrows, his trouble begins; all are plain colored birds, and look alike; but a red cap, a patch of black or a white tail-feather will divide them into several different species.

The foremost bird of this class, and the one which in all localities will be first, is the Song Sparrow. If one did not immediately recognize his voice, the black spots on a gray breast would afford a sure clue to his identity. In this locality where the Tree Sparrow is a winter resident, the Song Sparrow is first of his tribe to arrive, coming about the first week in March.

This bird is truly a "song" sparrow: none of his race can equal him in volubility, and some one has counted upwards of a dozen variations of the song; he sings loudest in the early morning, though his song continues to be heard throughout the day; nor, does the heat of August entirely silence him, as any wanderer along the river banks or in the woods can bear witness; even in the calm days of Indian summer he sings snatches of his spring song.

The first brood of Song Sparrows are reared on the ground; the nest being placed in a slight hollow in the ground and usually sheltered by an overhanging bank or tussock of grass, though sometimes, it is quite unprotected; it is composed of grass and weed stalks and lined with finer grasses and the hair of horses or cows. As the season advances this sparrow takes to nesting in trees where most of the second and third

broods are reared. The nest is the same as when built on the ground, except that it is, perhaps, a little more bulky.

The eggs are four or five in number and vary greatly in size and color, in fact, it would be hard to find a bird whose eggs vary more. The ground color is greenish, or bluish or grayish-white, and this is speckled all over, but chiefly at the larger end of the eggs, with shades of brown and lilac. The later nests commonly do not contain so many eggs as the early ones.

BIRDS OF COLUMBIA COUNTY WISCONSIN.

Crow, (*Corvus frugivorus*) common, many winter here, nests in April and May. Eggs from two to seven in number.

Blue Jay, (*Cyanocitta cristata*) common, winter resident, nests in April and May. Eggs four or five.

Robin, (*Merula migratoria*) common, early spring comer, nests in April and May. Eggs four or five.

Bluebird, (*Sialia sialis*) common, early spring comer, nests in May. Eggs four or five.

Purple Martin, (*Progne subis*) formerly common, come in May, leave in September, nests in May and June. Eggs four.

Catbird, (*Galeoscoptes carolinensis*) common summer resident, nests in May and June. Eggs from three to six.

Purple Grackle, (*Quiscalus purpureus*) common spring, summer and fall resident, nests in April. Eggs four or five.

Red-and-buff-Shouldered Blackbird, abundant summer resident, nests in May and June. Eggs from four to six.

(Continued on 2d page.)

AMERICAN OSPREY.

PAUL B. HASKELL, Editor and Publisher.

A monthly issued on the first of each month, devoted to the study of Ornithology and Oology.

Entered at the Post-Office of Ashland, Ky., as second-class mail matter.

Advertising rates furnished on application.

We solicit all correspondence pertaining to Birds, their Eggs, etc.

Subscription, 25c. per year.

As has been previously stated that the AMERICAN OSPREY would issue for its July number 3000 extra copies besides its regular subscription list, making a total number of 3,800 copies. We must say, we have fulfilled our statement to a dot.

Where, oh where, is the Wolverine Naturalist?

If subscriptions continue to pour in, as has been the case the last month, the OSPREY will have a larger circulation than any other ornithological paper published in America.

The American Collector, New Chester, Pa., is a neat, monthly publication, devoted to Philately. It will be enlarged to eight pages, and name changed to The Collector with the July issue.

Mr. H. Stanton Sawyer, Garland, Me. will cease publication of the Maine Ornithologist and Oologist, as he has been unsuccessful in entering his paper as second-class mail matter. The subscription list, etc. will be turned over to the AMERICAN OSPREY, and we will fill all subscriptions for the present year.

COWBIRD.

This bird is so common all over the United States that I would not attempt to tell anything new about it, but one author said he never heard of more than four eggs being found, but I found seven Cowbird's, and one Ovenbird's in the same nest. All the eggs were fresh, and I have no doubt that if we had been a day later there would have been more Cowbird's eggs and none of the Ovenbird's eggs.

For I know that Cowbirds remove the eggs of the other birds either before or after it has deposited its own.

I saw some place that some one tested that, and found the eggs within twenty feet of the nest, but I went every day to a Bluebird's nest in a hollow tree and every time there was one less Bluebird's and either one or two more Cowbird's; at the end of one week there were six Cowbird's and not a single Bluebird's egg. This bird is well worth the study of all naturalists; for how did that bird raise the eggs seventeen and one-half inches and out of a hole two inches in diameter? I can see how it can scrape the eggs out of a common nest built in a fork in a tree but the other is entirely above my comprehension.

I looked for broken shells, but could find not the least sign of any within twenty feet. They must have been carried some distance.

L. B., Des Moines Iowa.

BIRDS OF EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA.

Cotile riparia (Linn.), Bank Swallow.—Not seen much except during the migratory season and then they swarm in great gangs and skim over some open place in search of food.

Ampelis cedomni (Vieill.), Cedar Waxwing.—This species is very numerous about here some springs, while in others

American Osprey.---Extra.

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A FEW WARBLERS.

Thinking a few notes on some of the Warblers might be of interest to the readers of the OSPREY, I have ventured the following from my experience with them in this locality.

Most all of the Warblers found here, occur as migrants, remaining with us a couple of weeks or so in the fore part of May and then passing on to their northern breeding grounds, although there are several species that remain with us to breed.

First in abundance and beauty is the Yellow Warbler, whom every one knows by his bright yellow plumage through out, and who builds his nest in the bush by our window and sings incessantly all day long throughout the summer months.

Then there is the little Black-and-white-creeping Warbler, who only makes us a short visit in the spring, and whose veritable zebra plumage of black and white stripes, as he runs up and down the trunks of the trees, is fully as pleasing as his soft, lisping song.

The Chestnut-sided Warbler, that little fellow with a combination dress of silk and satin, with a pretty waist of bright chestnut, and the American Redstart with his exceedingly rich costume of jet black, trimmed with brightscarlet, fairly setting the leaves on fire as he darts through them; are both summer residents here, and breed. The Chestnut-side thinks there is no place quite so proper for a nest, while Madam Redstart would not condescend to build her

castle so near the ground, for anything.

The Blackburnian Warbler, as brilliant as any, and much more familiar and inquisitive than some, occurs as a migrant, and always seems to me, to be very desirous of showing off his bright colors, of which the many markings of rich orange is the most conspicuous.

No one of the Warblers, is, to my mind, so dignified and stately in appearance as the Myrtle Warbler. Somewhat larger than those already mentioned, and arriving in April, the first of his race, he also occurs as a migrant, and is a very good-looking gentleman. The bright yellow of the crown, shoulders and rump is only intensified by the rich markings of slate and black elsewhere on his person. His carriage is a model of grace and dignity.

(To be continued.)

NEIL F. POSSON,
Medina, N. Y.

AN OOLOGISTS' CABINET.

One of the things I worried over a great deal in the past was how to get a suitable cabinet for my specimens.

I first tried one with glass tops and while it was very nice for visitors, I found that my eggs faded very rapidly, and as the compartments in the trays were stationary, I could not have the sets just as I wanted them—for sometimes as every one knows, birds of the same family will not lay eggs anywhere near the same size,—and I want the eggs of the same family together.

I finally wrote to Mr. Flint, of San

Francisco for a description of a case, and the following is a description of my present cabinet, made partly from his plans and partly from my own:

First; the case should be made of cedar as it is somewhat of a moth preventative, but this is not of so much importance if you do not intend to keep skins in the case. It should have drawers of whatever size you can get them—the larger the better—mine are about thirty inches square. I would not advise having any of them less than two and one-half inches deep; and if for eggs alone, three and one-half inside measure will be enough; however, anyone can regulate the depth to suit themselves.

This case is a trifle costly but will hold an immense number of eggs. I have sixteen drawers in mine.

It is important that light be kept away from eggs as they will fade.

Line the bottom of the drawers with white Canton flannel.

Keep each set of eggs in a tray made especially for it. These trays are easily and quickly made from black cardboard—black all the way through; do not use white, for while it may be a fancy, I think the arsenic in the white is injurious to the shell. The eggs certainly look better in a black tray and when this is placed on a piece of white flannel you take pride in looking into a drawer.

You can easily classify all the species in a cabinet of this kind. You can also very easily preserve the nests in a case of this kind.

I keep my data in this way: I get a number of labels, such as are used for insects, about one inch long, and one and one-half inch across; and on these, I put the number of the species, the set mark, and my private number. A good way to do, for those who don't wish to keep any extensive set of books, is to get several books of data blanks as sold by all good dealers, and number the books in this way: There are one hundred pages in each book, number the

first from one to one hundred; the second book, from 101 to 200, and so on. This is a handy way to keep data, and when you dispose of a set, you know where it has gone to, put a number on each one of these labels to correspond to the number of the data in your book, and put this label in the tray with the set of eggs, this will save handling the eggs, as you can pick up this tag and see the number of the set in your book, and you will not need to write a whole data on the egg itself, as some collectors have a disagreeable habit of doing, and as I have done myself.

I do not think the above method can be improved.

At some future time I will publish in the OSPREY instructions for making trays, as it is much cheaper and better to make them than to buy.

A. C. MURCHISON,
Chicago, Ill.

EXCHANGE.—Mazon Creek Fossils in Iron Stone, Nodules, Ferns and plants for Marine Shells, Star-fish and Curios. Wishes fine Indian Relics, Minerals and Fossils in quantity. Wishes to correspond with parties who have large collections for sale or exchange. I wish large, showy specimens for my exhibit at the coming World's Fair at Chicago.
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THE COLLECTOR,

New Chester, Adams Co., Pa.

not very many are to be met with. They go by the name of Cedarbird almost universally in this section.

Vireosylva alvocal (Linn.), Red-eyed Vireo.—The only representative of this family that I am positive that breeds here. They always build pensile nests and the usual complement of eggs is three. The eggs are pure white, sparsely speckled with brown and lilac.

Protontaria citrea (Bodd.), Prothonotary Warbler.—I think that this species is only a transient visitor to this section as I have found only one nest which contained three eggs.

Dendroeca aestiva (Gmel.), Summer Yellowbird.—Transient visitor. During some springs they are so thick that you cannot see much else, while in others it is just vice versa.

Simus motacilla (Vieill.), Louisiana Water Thrush.—An uncommon breeder. Found one nest last year.

Myiodivetes mitratus (Wils.), Hooded Warbler.—One of the most common of our breeding Warblers. I found six nests last year, all of which I obtained eggs from. The usual complement of eggs is three or four. The eggs are white thick-speckled at the larger end with several shades of brown.

Minus polyglottus (Linn.), Mocking Bird.—This great songster is very well represented in this locality. You can see him some spring morning perched in the topmost bough of his favorite tree pouring forth his magnificent song; he presently becomes exultant and bounds in the air, a few feet only, to settle back in some fantastic manner. When confined they become good songsters if properly treated. They seem to have a preference for building near the house.

Galeoscoptes carolinensis (Linn.), Catbird.—I used to think this species were summer residents only, but I observed several last winter. They probably remained here on account of the mildness of the weather (which was unusual mild for this climate).

Harporhynchus rufus (Linn.), Brown Thrasher.—Strange to say this species is much more abundant in winter than in summer, which is perhaps caused by the northern residents stopping to winter in this locality.

Thryothorus ludovicianus, Carolina Wren.—The most common of all our Wrens. In spring time he will mount the fence and trill a series of duets to the rising sun.

Troglodytes aedon, House Wren.—Not so common as the last named species. In the winter time they generally stay in the "wood piles" where, I suppose, they find plenty of insect food and protection from the cold.

[To be continued.]

J. W. P. SMITWICK, Sans Souci, N. C.

BIRDS OF COLUMBIA COUNTY WISCONSIN.

Phoebe, common spring and summer resident, nests in April and May. Eggs four or five.

American Goldfinch, (*Astragalinus tristis*) common spring and summer resident, nests in July and August. Eggs three.

English Sparrows by the million.

Mourning Dove, (*Zenaidura carolinensis*) common spring and summer resident, nests in May. Eggs two sometimes more.

Baltimore Oriole, (*Icterus galbula*) common summer resident, nests in May and June. Eggs three.

Belted Kingfisher, (*Ceryle alcyon*) rare spring and summer resident, nests in May and June. Eggs from five to fourteen. I once had a set of fourteen Belted Kingfisher's eggs.

Flicker, (*Colaptes auratus*) common, nests in April and May. Eggs from eight to fourteen.

Bank Swallow, (*Clivecola riparia*) quite common, nests in May or June. Eggs from four to seven.

GEO. W. VOSBURG, Columbus, Wis.

THE AMERICAN BITTERN.

(*Botaurus lentiginosus*.)

The American Bittern is a common summer resident here. It makes its nest in the high grass, in the marshes and edges of ponds, where it is not often disturbed. The nests are very hard to find as they are well concealed and look so much like their surroundings. The bird too, is very tame and will not leave its nest until nearly trodden upon.

The nest is a pile of dry grass and sedges, and is built on the ground or fastened in a bunch of rushes over water.

The eggs are three to five in number. They are of a dull, drab, color and measure 1.95 x 1.50. They are deposited from the middle of May to the middle of June. The earliest I have found a nest was the eleventh of May.

During the breeding season the bird makes a peculiar gurgling, pumping sound which gives it the name of "Thunder Pumper." Its most common name is "Shitepoke."

Its food consists principally of frogs and snakes. It seems to be particularly fond of the latter, and is often seen with one hanging from its bill.

The Bittern often falls a victim to the sportsman on account of its habit of sitting in the grass until nearly stepped on. His rising at this time, generally brings the hunter's gun to his shoulder and ~~rather~~ than pull it down and swallow his anger he pulls a trigger and there is one less of *Botaurus lentiginosus*.

JOHN V. CRONE,
Marathone, Iowa.

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AMERICAN OSPREY.

VOL. 1.

ASHLAND, KY., AUGUST, 1890.

NO. 8.

BIRD STUDIES.—IV.

A SPARROW TRIO.

BY PICUS.

The genus *Spizella* contains three sparrows, which, though looking much alike, are very different in regard to the position they occupy in the world. These are the Chipping, Field and Tree Sparrows.

The Chipping Sparrow is common in trees about houses, but is found also in the orchard and other places near to the dwellings of mankind. He rivals the English Sparrow in fearlessness, but is without that bird's arrogance and aggressiveness. In some sections his confident disposition has won for him the name of "Social Sparrow."

"Hair Bird" is another appellation by which the Chipping Sparrow is known. He gets this name from the manner of building his nest. Horse hair always predominates if that material is obtainable; the outside is composed of grasses.

The nest is placed in any convenient bush or tree about the house, and frequently in the orchard. The eggs are four or five, deep bluish green, heavily marked with black at the larger end, and differ from all other eggs found in the same situations.

The Chipping Sparrow's song is a series of chips—almost a trill. It may be heard at almost any time: in the early morning, at broad noon, in the rain or at night.

The Field Sparrow, is, as his name implies, an inhabitant of fields. While the Song Sparrow prefers the rich meadows, the Field Sparrow loves the slashings and the lonely pastures half grown up to bushes—"That line of land where the

cultivated beauty and fertility of the fields end, and the solitude and gloom of the forest begins."

The Field Sparrow is the smallest American sparrow, and may be distinguished from the Chipping Sparrow by the absence of the black stripe which borders the red crown. His song, too, readily marks him as a different bird. It begins in a high clear whistle, the first four or five syllables slow, the rest gradually quickening and running down the scale a little, ending in a trill.

The nest is placed on the ground, rarely in a bush, and cleverly built into the surrounding grasses. It is composed of the finest grasses and lined with fine rootlets, horse hair and pine needles.

The eggs are usually four. Ground color, grayish white, thinly speckled with red-brown and lavender. This bird is often victimized by the Cowbird.

Although the Tree Sparrow looks so much like the Chipping Sparrow, there is little danger of their being confounded by tyros in ornithology, for the Tree Sparrow is a winter resident and the Chipping Sparrow a summer resident; when one leaves the other appears and vice versa. But there is another way to distinguish the Tree Sparrow, he is the only one of the three under consideration which has a dusky spot on the breast.

While with us the Tree Sparrows go about in large flocks and make merry in the swamps and weedy fields. In spring they consort with their relatives, the Juncos, and migrate North with them.

The Tree Sparrow does not nest in the United States except, perhaps, in the mountainous regions along our northern frontier.

AMERICAN OSPREY.

PAUL B. HASKELL, Editor and Publisher.

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Subscribe for the AMERICAN OSPREY! five months for ten cents.

H. Stanton Sawyer has continued publication of the Maine Ornithologist and Oologist at fifteen cents per year. The July issue is before us and is greatly improved on the preceding numbers, although it is somewhat smaller.

We have in course of preparation a compiled directory for the United States, Canada and Europe; for the benefit of advertisers and collectors, and would be pleased to have our correspondents and patrons favor us with any brief information they can supply at once. Correspondence solicited in reference to natural history, in its various branches. Notices, advertisements, wants, exchanges, etc., names of all collectors wanted.

This work when completed will excel any publication of the kind heretofore published: price will be lower, the workmanship superior, on fine book paper, in clear type, and will contain probably the addresses of 1,500 collectors, from all parts of the world.

Collectors in natural history will kindly send us their names at once, should they desire a notice in this work, as we hope to not overlook any one interested in the science of ornithology, so as to not delay the publication of the work.

BIRDS OF COLUMBIA COUNTY WISCONSIN.

White-bellied Swallow. (*Tachycineta bicolor*) Common summer resident, nests in June, Eggs three to seven.

Chimney Swift. (*Chetura pelagica*) Common spring and summer resident, nests in May, June and July, eggs three or four. Birds seen most during the latter part of May and June.

Indigo Bunting. (*Passerina cyanea*) Quite common during spring and summer, nest some time in July or August, eggs three to five.

Wood Pewee. (*Contopus virens*) Common in woods during spring and summer, nest in May or June, eggs three or four.

Partridge, Ruffed Grouse. (*Bonasa umbellus*) Quite abundant, nest in May and June, eggs from seven to twenty.

Cooper's Hawk. (*Accipiter cooperi*) Abundant in spring, summer and autumn, and I think some stay all winter, nest in March and April, eggs three to six.

Red-shouldered Hawk. (*Buteo lineatus*) Common through spring and summer, nest in March or April, eggs three, sometimes four.

American Long-eared Owl. (*Asio americanus*) Common spring and summer resident, nest in February, March and April, eggs three to seven.

Screech Owl. (*Scopis asio*) Common resident, nests in March, April and May eggs three to seven.

Killdeer Plover. (*Oxyechus vociferus*) Abundant spring and summer resident, nests in April, eggs three or four, sometimes five.

Bartramian's Sandpiper. (*Bartramia longicauda*) Not very plentiful, nests in May or June, eggs three or four.

Virginian Rail. (*Rallus virginianus*) Rare, spring and summer resident, nests in May and June, eggs, eight to fifteen.

Sora or Carolina Rail. (*Porzana carolina*)

lina) Common in summer, nests in late April, or May, eggs four or five.

Prairie Horned Lark. (*Otocoris alpestris*) I think a few nest here; am not sure about the bird.

Bobolink. (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) Abundant in spring and summer, but begin to leave for the south in September, nest in May and June, eggs five or six.

Meadow Lark. (*Sturnella magna*) Abundant spring and summer resident, nest in May and June, eggs four to six.

A FEW WARBLERS.

(Concluded.)

The Maryland Yellow-throat and the Golden-winged Warbler both occur as summer residents, breeding here; and both evince a decided liking for swamps, peat beds, bogs and wet places in general, particularly so, the Yellow-throat, who sometimes builds his nest scarcely out of the water. Both are ground builders. The drowsy grasshopper notes of the Golden-winged Warbler, and a lively, "weech-a-tee, weech-a-tee" of the Maryland Yellow-throat are in decided contrast to each other, and both of decided pleasantness, and quite in harmony with the surroundings of their swampy haunts.

Among the rarer of the migrant Warbler in this vicinity, is the Nashville Warbler, who will occasionally give you a glimpse of his form on some bright May morning, from out the branches of some ever green hedge where he seems to delight to stay. The Nashville Warbler is always easily identifiable to me by his song, which always strikes me as being two songs in one,—first a faint lisping song, then a livelier chipping chorus, like,—"ke-tsee, ke-tsee, ke-tsee, ke-tsee, chip-ee, chip-ee, chip-ee, chip-ee."

He has a chestnut colored cap, a yellowish vest, and a slaty overcoat.

I might speak of the Ovenbird, as a warbler, if every body didn't know him;

and I might speak of several others, if I knew them better. As it is, I will leave this entertaining and pleasing little family to take care of itself, which, by the way, it is well able to do.

NEIL F. POSSON, Medina, N. Y.

BIRDS OF EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA.

Sitta carolinensis, White-breasted Nuthatch.—Only a winter visitant. Not very plentiful.

Sitta pusilla, Brown-headed Nuthatch.—The most common of the Nuthatches about here, and one of our soonest nesters.

Lophophanes bicolor, Tufted Titmouse.—Resident. They use old cavities for nesting places. Common.

Parus carolinensis, Carolina Chickadee.—These pretty little birds build their nest sometimes in knot holes and sometimes make the excavation themselves. Tolerably common.

Poliophtila caerulea, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher.—One of our prettiest nest-makers, and cannot to my notion be excelled by any other bird in the construction of their nest. Resident.

Ilyocichla mustelina, Wood Thrush.—The commonest of our thrushes arrives in April and departs in September. They possess a very good musical power which they put to use in making the woods ring with their songs during the spring and summer evenings.

Merula migratoria, American Robin.—Abundant winter resident. They arrive in October and remain all the winter feeding on Boll Gunn, Holly and Cedar berries.

Sialia sialis, Bluebird.—Common resident. I do not know any thing about this species that would be interesting.

English Sparrow.—Abundant resident and a nuisance wherever found. They exercise the authority of a monarch, and run all the other birds away.

J. W. P. SMITHWICK, Sans Souci, N. C.

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H. D. HILL, Morris, Ill.

AMERICAN OSPREY.

VOL. 1.

ASHLAND, KY., SEPTEMBER, 1890.

NO. 9.

AMERICAN OSPREY.

Pandion haliaetus carolinensis. Gmel.

*The Osprey soars aloft with his hard earned prey,
The pilfering Eagle comes and takes it away;
And thus, the Osprey is forced to yield
To a tyrant that will his power so wield.*

*If I were the Osprey, I'd fight to the last,
I'd never give up 'till all hope was passed,
And then I'd drop that fish, and let him go
Into the water before the Eagle would know.*

*Then I'd fly to yonder storm beaten snag,
And the Eagle to his eyrie would lag;
And then, I would fly around the bend,
And catch me a fish, and the way to my nest I'd wend.*

This fine bird inhabits the whole of the Eastern part of the North American Continent and probably breeds more abundantly from the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay, north to the coast of Connecticut than in any other locality of its habitat. It is a summer resident in the northern portion of its range, arriving in Massachusetts about the middle of April. They commence to make arrangements for breeding about the first of May, and in this locality they build their nests somewhat like the Bald Eagle, although I am informed by collectors that they often build on the ground on Plum Island, and that all along the coast of New Jersey they place their nests in trees not often more than five or ten feet from the ground.

A pair nests near here every spring, occupying the same nest every time. The site is a cypress broken off by some storm and the nest is placed on the very pinnacle, seventy-five feet from the ground or rather water, for the tree is standing in a mill-pond. I have often longed to visit that Osprey's nest with a view of obtaining the eggs that it con-

tains every spring, but it is useless to long since I can not climb that storm beaten stump on which rests the nest.

The number of eggs laid, is usually three, although sets of four are frequently found, and sets of two are common. The average size of two hundred specimens is 2.40x1.75 in. The color is yellowish or creamy white, thickly spotted and blotched with reddish-brown and umber.

The markings are very thick at larger ends, so much so as to obscure the ground color, sometimes this is the reverse and the markings are principally at smaller ends. Long may the Ospreys sail over the fair waters of this Continent, and as long may THE OSPREY live to advance the science of Ornithology and Oology.

J. W. P. SMITHWICK,
Sans Souci, N. C.

BIRD STUDIES.—V.

MORE SPARROWS.

BY PICUS.

The Bay-winged, Yellow-winged and Savanna Sparrows are three more birds which the young ornithologist will invariably have trouble in distinguishing. All are summer residents in the Northern States and are found inhabiting the same pastures and dry fields. The ordinary observer notices no difference in their plumage; they all have the "sparrow color" on the back, and as they flit along before him he notices that their tails are edged with white.

The nest, which one often finds an aid to identification, in this case affords no clue. Each bird builds on the ground
(Continued on 2d page.)

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We would be pleased to hear from our readers on the "rara avis" in their locality, also unusual nesting-sites.

The Naturalist, Kansas City, Kas., was a little late with the May issue (just out) but it has appeared just the same. It is stated that it will cease publication after volume 4 is completed.

We are informed that the Wolverine Naturalist is incorporated with The American Fish and Game Warden, of Kalamazoo, a journal protective of the fish and game of America.

No. 1, of the Wisconsin Naturalist received. It is an interesting magazine published by Chas. F. Carr, Madison, Wis. Its sixteen pages are full of instructive matter to the young naturalist.

We want at once names and addresses of all reliable collectors in any branch of natural history, for our new directory. Send in your name immediately, plainly written on a postal. You will receive many returns by having your name in our directory.

(Continued from 1st page.)

and uses the same materials. Even the eggs look alike. If you find a nest in the grass, containing eggs which look like those of the Oriole, you may be pretty sure you have found a nest of one of these Sparrows.

The Bay-winged Sparrow, or Grass Finch, is the best known, chiefly by reason of its song, which comes next to the Song Sparrow's in point of melody. At sunset, this bird is more than usually tuneful, and so is often called "Vesper Sparrow." The song of the Savanna Sparrow is a peculiar sound closely resembling the shrilling of an insect. "The song is not loud and has but little variation, but is one of those gentle drowsy sounds in nature which are decidedly soothing."

Nearly all birds have some noticeable marking or habit which lingers in the mind long after minor points have vanished. Often a bird's name is an epitome of its prominent characteristics. The Bay-winged Sparrow has, as one would infer, a patch of bay on the wing; this is the mark by which one may identify him. The song of the Savanna Sparrow is his striking point. The Yellow-winged Sparrow is more of a southern bird, but occurs throughout the northern States. Its distinguishing mark is the yellow on the wings.

BIRDS OF COLUMBIA COUNTY WISCONSIN.

Yellow Warbler. (*Dendroica aestiva*) Common summer resident, nests in May and June, eggs three to six.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak. (*Habia ludoviciana*) Quite common during the last few years, nests in May and June, eggs three or four.

Prairie Hen. (*Cupidonia cupido*) Formerly abundant, but disappearing before civilization, nests in May and June, eggs fourteen to eighteen.

GEO. W. VOSSBURG, Columbus, Wis.

THE BALD EAGLE.

This splendid bird, the emblem of this Nation, inhabits nearly the whole of North America. It is not numerous in any place, but perhaps more so in Florida than any where else. They breed throughout their entire range occupying the same nest every year.

The eaglets are cute little (?) creatures, covered all over with white down, and when feathered out, they are erroneously called "Black Eagles." The second year they are called "Gray Eagles," and the third year they receive their full plumage and are the genuine Bald Eagle.

I know where there is a nest that is occupied by a pair of Eagles every spring and:

*Would that I had wings of a dove,
That I could ascend above,
And claim those treasures in that nest,
And leave the Eagles all the rest.*

But, when that will be, I cannot tell. I do not think that I will undertake to climb that peerless pine, which towers one hundred feet toward the heavens, and which is fifteen feet in circumference at the base.

To an observer on the ground, the nest looks to be about three feet in diameter, and two feet in depth, and it rests right in the top, where the pine branches into several limbs which shields it from the many storms that, must have come since it has been there.

There is a belief among the negroes of this section that the nest contains a piece of load stone which protects the Eagles from all dangers.

The food of the Eagles consist mainly of ducks, and such small animals as chance to fall in their way, but sometimes they procure a goodly portion from the industrious Fish Hawk.

Some people have an idea that the Eagle is a clumsy bird, but when they see one strike a Fish Hawk, and catch the fish before it strikes the water, they will be convinced otherwise.

J. W. P. SMITHWICK, Sans Souci, N. C.

NESTING SITES.

A brief mention of the following nesting sites may perhaps interest at least some of the AMERICAN OSPREY's readers. Though by no means extraordinary, they are sufficiently so in this locality to merit notice.

On the fourth of May last, a Robin's nest was found on one of the horizontal girders of an iron railroad bridge, which spans a roadway and a small creek near town. The nest was some three feet below the rails, and directly under one of them. It was of ordinary construction and materials, containing at the time of discovery, three eggs. Here, apparently undisturbed by the proximity of the frequently passing trains, the parent bird in due time hatched her young; but whether or not the brood was successfully reared I have no means of knowing.

I discovered May 25th, a family of four or five nearly fledged Bluebirds, occupying a newly excavated nest in a small decayed stump, the entrance being but slightly more than a foot above the ground. This nest was subsequently ascertained to contain an addled egg, its condition possibly attributable to the damp nature of the situation.

May 18th, while walking up a steep grassy slope, which was thickly interspersed with low bushes, a Mourning Dove flew up in front, and disappeared over the hilltop. A hasty search revealed her nest, placed on the ground at the base of a small bush. It was composed of a very few leaves and weedstalks, with a barely noticeable depression, containing one egg, and a young bird apparently but a day or two old. Only a short distance away, on the top of a low stump another, an old, nest of the same species, was observed it being simply a few weedstalks laid in an irregular circle.

Later in the season, a Mourning Dove's nest containing one fresh egg, was noticed on the top rail of an old snake fence. This nest, however, came to grief, as it was soon afterwards demolished, possibly by the cattle that pastured in the adjoining field.

"MUSTELINUS," Wooster, O.

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AMERICAN OSPREY.

VOL. 1.

ASHLAND, KY., OCTOBER, 1890.

NO. 10.

BIRD STUDIES.—VI.

MIGRATORY SPARROWS.

BY PICUS.

After you have listened to the melody of the Song Sparrows and Grass Finches, and have learned the chips and trills of other members of the sparrow tribe, you will be ready to identify two migratory sparrows, whose conspicuous colors doubtless engaged your attention while watching others.

The White-throated Sparrow should be spoken of first, as he, being the more common, is best known. In size the White-throat is above the sparrow average. You will have no trouble to identify him, his pure white throat and head, striped with black and white quickly tells the story.

The White-throats arrive in this locality about the middle of April and although they intend to go much farther north to breed, seem to be in no haste to move on, but tarry with us nearly a month, hopping about the wet slashings and along bushy fence rows.

When the birds reach this latitude they are in full song. While it can lay little claim to real melody, it is, withal, a pleasing ditty, and one of the easiest to represent on the staff. Beginning in a high clear whistle the second note is two or more steps higher than the first, and the rest of the song is pitched on a tone mid-way between the two. The first two notes are uttered very deliberately, and the rest increased in rapidity to the end. The song has been represented in words as: "All day whittling, whittling, whittling." In New England the bird is often called the "Peabody-bird" because the latter part of the song sounds

like a repetition of the word, "peabody." The song may be easily whistled and always sets the birds to singing when they hear it. Often when I have been too indolent to explore a bushy tract in search of these birds, I have given the call and brought them to sight and sound immediately.

The White-crowned Sparrow is rarer than the White-throat and not seen during every migration. To the eye he does not seem so heavily built as his near relation, from whom he is distinguished by the clear white crown and absence of the white on the throat. The White-crown comes later than the White-throat, and does not stay nearly as long. He is found in the bushy fields and is often heard singing in a peculiar whistle of several syllables.

BIRDS OF COLUMBIA COUNTY WISCONSIN.

Passenger Pigeon. (*Ectopistes migratorius*) Formerly very abundant in this part of Wisconsin, but very scarce now. Formerly they nested in colonies, laying two white eggs; but now it would take long and tedious tramps to find a single nest, and in all probabilities would contain but one egg.

Green Humming-bird. I have seen a great many of these birds here, but have never found any nests.

Marsh Hawk. (*Circus hudsonius*) I have seen a few of this species of hawk, but have never been rewarded with a set of its eggs. They nest some time in May and June, eggs five to six sometimes seven.

Geo. W. Vosburg,
Columbus, Wis.

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Moxley's Exchange and Advertiser is published quarterly by C. A. Moxley, Rosemond, Ill. It is among our valued exchanges.

We notice with much pleasure the continued advancement in the periodicals relating to the natural sciences.

A late arrival of high merit is The American Fish and Game Warden, of Kalamazoo, Mich. The second issue is before us and presents an excellent specimen of typographical neatness. Those who are interested in the protection of fish and game in general could not invest one dollar to better advantage than to subscribe to this journal.

We will for a short time longer take advertisements, etc., for our new directory. Remember that this directory will contain advertisements of all the principle collectors and dealers in natural history in the U. S., also foreign countries; so if you call yourself a lively collector you should by all means have your advertisement in it. For full particulars and rates send to this office or Mr. Letson Balliet, Des Moines, Iowa.

ACADIAN FLYCATCHER.

Empidonax acadicus, Gmel.

In the Eastern part of the United States these little birds are more or less abundant. His well-known chirp is heard along all of our woody ravines where, in the swinging limbs of the beech and other trees he suspends his nest. Mr. Acadicus is not a very large bird, averaging in length about six inches, extent of wings 8.75 inches. He is yellowish slaty above, and beneath is tinged with yellow. Wings are darker with three yellowish white bars running across. Under wings whitish with a decided yellowish cast. Tail is very near like wings and contains eleven feathers. Bill is black above, and white beneath. Feet are purplish black, and eyes are pure black.

I dare say no oologist in the section east of the Mississippi has not taken a walk in the woods without being met with Acadicus sitting still on some limb, every once in a while uttering his "what-d'-see, what-d'-ye-see," but that he would be a little startled and try to find the maker of such music.

I have studied the habits of this interesting Flycatcher this season more than I ever dreamed of before, and find it rather pleasant watching him in his love making, nest-building and rearing his young.

In this locality he arrives about the first of May, and in a few weeks begins nest-making, and by the last of May or first of June the nest contains its full complement of eggs. In about fifteen or eighteen days the eggs hatch and then the parents are busy for the next three weeks catching flies.

The eggs are usually three in number, although two are frequently found, and some collectors report as many as four being found in a nest. Their color, is light yellowish with a fresh-color tint when fresh, and are generally marked with dots of light reddish-brown

chiefly about the larger end. I have one egg in my collection that is entirely unmarked.

The description of the following three sets and nests collected by me this season will give you a good idea of what the nests are composed of in this section. (Eastern N. C.)

June 2nd. Acadian Flycatcher. Took the first set of this species to-day. Nest was situated in a woody ravine at the end of a swinging beech limb fifteen feet from trunk and ten feet from ground. It was composed almost entirely of moss which hung down nearly ten inches below the nest. Eggs were three in number and measured .71x.53, .70x.54, .73x.52.

June 7th. Another set of *Acadicus* to-day. Nest was situated very much like the first and looked as if it was an old one repaired. It contained three eggs with incubation advanced. I saved them all right, however. Sizes .71x.50, .70x.53, .73x.52.

July 1st. *Acadicus*. A perfectly fresh set of this species to-day. Nest was placed at extremity of beech limb ten feet from trunk and eight feet six inches from ground. It was composed of moss and contained three eggs, one of which was without the spots so characteristic in all eggs of this species. They measure .70x.51, .72x.52 and .73x.53.

J. W. P. SMITHWICK,
Sans Souci, N. C.

CEDAR WAXWING.

Although of wide distribution, is somewhat restricted to certain districts. It is a resident here, but is rather uncertain in its appearance, both in summer and winter. It nests both in woodlands and orchards, often in maple and elm saplings seven or eight feet from the ground. The nests are rather bulky, somewhat resembling those of the American Robin, but rather smaller. They

are composed, often, of quite an assortment of material, fine twigs, straws, dry grasses, rootlets, bits of paper, rags and string, lined with fine rootlets, and sometimes with hair, or wool.

The eggs are from four to six, usually, four or five. They are a light shade of stone-color usually, marked with small spots of very dark brown, almost black, with shadings of pale brown, and occasionally blotches of dark brown.

One set I have is without any spots, the ground color is the same as usual and the eggs are marked with large blotches of dark brown. The eggs have an average size of .87x.61.

In winter, these birds may often be seen in the mountain ash trees, feeding on the berries. In summer, cherries and other small fruits form a large part of their food.

The usual note is a sort of squeaking: sounding a good deal like the squeaking of door hinges.

B. S. BOWDISH,
Phelphs, N. Y.

ALBINO EGGS OF THE BLACK-THROATED BUNTING.

July 8th, I found a nest of the Black-throated Bunting containing four pure white eggs. There is no mistake in the identity as the bird was on the nest and well seen. The nest was in an elm bush, two feet up, composed of the usual material. The eggs contained large embryos and I only succeeded in saving two of them.

Has any one else found albino eggs of this species? If so, let us hear from you.

JOHN V. CRONE,
Marathone, Ia.

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F. M. Kinne, Knoxville, Ia.

AMERICAN OSPREY.

VOL. I.

ASHLAND, KY., NOVEMBER, 1890.

NO. 11.

BIRD STUDIES.—VII.

THE PEWEE.

BY PICUS.

The Pewee belongs to one of the most strongly marked families of birds, the Tyrant Flycatchers. Allowing for certain differences in size and color, the members of this family all look alike, being, as Burroughs says: "Sharp-shouldered, big-headed, short-legged, of no particular color and of little elegance of flight or movement." And yet, after these rather unkind things have been said, the birds still have some redeeming qualities; certain days in early spring would lose half their charm if the voice of the Pewee was not heard coming across the fields from the ridge of the old barn.

The Pewee is the first of his family to arrive in spring, sometimes appearing in this locality as early as the last week in March. Although subsisting entirely on insects, he comes when there is seemingly not an insect about. And just here, I want to disclose a secret: He does not take up his abode around barns and bridges immediately upon his arrival, but loiters about the woods till insects become plenty. In this situation he does not seem like the same bird, but is shyer and less demure.

From long intercourse with man the Pewee has become quite domesticated, though the degree of domestication varies with different individuals. While most are content to dwell about barns and other out-buildings, others still cling to their primitive life in rocky woods, building their mossy nests on some convenient ledge.

In the matter of nest-building those

birds which have taken up their residence about bridges and in barns have made no change except to substitute a lining of horse or cow's hair for the ancient one of moss, the outside remains the same. The eggs are usually four or five, white in color, sometimes sparingly speckled. The Cow-bird not infrequently contributes one or more eggs to the original set.

In spring as one traverses the woods, the plaintive call of the Pewee is borne to his ear blended with the roar of every little water-fall. With a slight effort of the imagination one may fancy the Naiads to still exist in these sylvan retreats, and, clad in the sober garments of the Pewee, guard their favorite streams as of old.

TRAILL'S FLYCATCHER.

As a companion-piece to Mr. Smithwick's "Acadian Flycatcher" of the last OSPREY, a short description of the Traill's Flycatcher may not be amiss.

Here, the two are as close companions as the difference in nesting sites will allow, and where you find the nest of the Acadian, hung from some slender limb, in the same woods you may expect to find (providing there is underbrush) the nest of the Traill's Flycatcher in the fork of some slender sappling.

In size the Traill's Flycatcher is not much different from the Acadian. It has two varieties of alarm notes which are not so easy to describe as that of Acadians.

The nesting season is a little later than that of the Acadian, beginning here about the first of July. The nests which I have

(Continued on 2d page.)

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If you have specimens for sale write us with your lowest cash price.

A neat amateur publication is The Bugle, Buffalo, N. Y. It makes its debut this month.

The Empire State Exchange presented its subscribers and exchanges with an interesting, 32-page paper for October.

We are in urgent need of a few copies of the June issue of the OSPREY. In return for same we will pay five cents each, or will give a small exchange notice. We trust some of our friends will kindly respond.

The O. & O. Semi-Annual, formerly published by W. H. Foote, Pittsfield, Mass. has been bought by C. C. Maxfield, Danbury, Conn. Mr. Maxfield says that the name of his magazine hereafter will be The Semi-Annual. The character and size will be continued as heretofore. We extend to Mr. Maxfield our best wishes for the prosperity of his journal.

(Continued from 1st page.)

found, have been composed almost entirely of fine, dry grass blades, lined with the same and sometimes with a little horse-hair. They are placed in the forks of little sapplings and bushes, from four to six feet from the ground.

The eggs are usually three in number, sometimes two, and rarely four. They have a creamy or pale yellow ground color, marked with spots and fine specks of reddish-brown. They are often undistinguishable from the eggs of *Acadicus*.

A nest which I collected June 22d of the present year from a little maple fork about five feet from the ground presents the following measurements: diameter outside, two and three-fourths inches; inside, one and seven-eighths inches; depth outside, two inches; inside, one and three-fourths inches. It contained two eggs in which incubation was well advanced. These measure .76x.53, .72x.52. An average of the specimens I have measured is .74x.53. Notwithstanding, the assertion of some, that the nest of Traill's is not so neat a structure as that of *Acadicus*, those of the former which I have found far surpassed those of the latter in workmanship.

Few nests of Traill's Flycatcher show loose material hanging from them, as is the case with many of those of the *Acadian*.

Altogether, these two little Flycatchers add much brightness to our woods, and are a pretty little team, although, far less in numbers than their cousin, the Wood Pewee. B. S. B.

HUMMINGBIRDS.

Of the many varieties of this family only one species comes east of the Mississippi and that is the beautiful little Ruby-throat.

Mr. C. W. Webber made a great mistake in his book, "Wild Scenes and Song

Birds," in classing the Hummingbirds east the Mississippi into two distinct species: one the Ruby-throat and the other the Emerald or Green-backed Hummingbird. He evidently confounded the male and female of the Ruby-throats into two different species. In regard to the Emerald variety he says: "The Emerald Hummingbird resembles the old female of the Ruby-throat, or Scarlet-throat, as we have called it from the predominance of that blazing hue in the changing splendor of its throat! The Green birds resemble, also, the young female of the Ruby-throat and hence the confusion." He continues: "The female of all Hummingbirds is the largest." Well in the matter of size, I found the difference to be this: the female of the Ruby-throat is of the same size of the male of the Green, while the female of the Green is nearly one-third larger. The throat of the male of the Green is always a pure, clear white, while the plumage of the back is darker and more resplendent green." I do not see why a man who has made a life-study of birds should make such a mistake. Davie in his work, "Nest and Eggs of N. A. Birds," says that the Ruby-throated Hummingbird is the only Hummingbird that comes east of the Mississippi, and if any more has ever ventured across this great river some one else would have seen them besides Mr. Webber. From all facts, we evidently believe, that he made two species out of the male and female of the Ruby-throats.

There are eleven varieties of Hummingbirds, ten of which live principally west of the Rocky Mountains, and are never seen on this side of the Mississippi. But the one that ventures to this locality, far exceeds all the rest in its magnificent costume of beautiful colors artistically blending with its miniature form. Who does not feel a thrill of delight on seeing it darting hither and thither among the flowers, which are

already wet with glistening jewels, deposited in the night by a fairy like hand? What a delight we feel in seeing its slender form drinking into the very depths of nectar which nature has abundantly supplied for his benefit and pleasure. See! he now darts away with the rapidity of lightning, perhaps, to his nest which contains two very small eggs or two equally small young ones.

To me this is one of the most interesting families of our birds.

Notice its nest. What a beauty? It seems almost impossible that a bird so small could execute such workmanship and show such skill in architecture. The Oriole makes a fine nest, but the Hummingbirds' excell that by far, i. e. according to my way of thinking; but, perhaps, some of you may differ with me. If you will take into consideration the size of both the Oriole and Hummingbird and then take into consideration the beauty of each nest, and notice well their construction, I think that you will be ready to agree with me.

All Hummingbirds as far as known build their nest principally on the same plan.

These fairy-like birds always lay two eggs; there has never been a case recorded in which three eggs were found in the same nest as I know of, and I think it exceptional when one egg is found to constitute the whole set.

In about ten days the eggs hatch and the young ones are then attentively attended to by the parents, who, I suppose keep their mouths well filled with the nectar of flowers. The young birds are ready to fly in about a week or ten days. When they leave the nest they are cared for by the old birds about a week longer when they are then turned loose to seek their own fortunes.

Some authorities state that Hummingbirds raise two broods in one season, and most people agree with them.

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AMERICAN OSPREY.

VOL. 1.

ASHLAND, KY., DECEMBER, 1890.

NO. 12.

BIRD STUDIES.—VIII.

THE WOOD PEWEE,

BY PICUS.

Upon going into any piece of woods in summer, ones attention is sure to be attracted by the plaintive drawling voice of the Wood Pewee. To the eye he is only a smaller copy of the common Pewee. He sits well up in a tree waiting till his insect food comes along, when he deftly snaps it up in a short, circling flight.

It is apparent that this bird was designed expressly to fill up the places in nature left vacant by his larger relations. The deep woodlands are his favorite haunts, though he also frequents the orchards and the tall trees along city streets. His disposition resembles that of the common Pewee. In the presence of man he is not at all shy, but is possessed of a certain reserve in manner.

The Wood Pewee has not much musical ability, his energies being devoted to repeating "pe-wee" or "pe-er-wee;" the first with a fine falling inflection on the last syllable, the latter with the last syllable on an upward turn. Although not a varied singer he is a most persistent one and throughout the hot summer months, rivals the Vireo in making our groves musical. As other bird-voices gradually become silent, the Pewee's voice rings out the louder for the contrast. No amount of warmth can silence him; in the heat of an August noon he calls as loudly as ever. At this season the voice of the Pewee is most noticeable in the woods, and on that account the bird is always associated, in my memory, with the cool depths of the pine woods.

Of the bird-voices heard in our city shade trees during July and August, the

Pewee's voice comes second on the list, the Vireo, only exceeding him in volubility. The listener may hear the call for hours without seeing the bird which is hidden some where in the green depths about.

The Pewee's nest is a marvel of bird-architecture. A tree in the woods or orchard is chosen to build in; the nest being placed at some height from the ground. In order to make it harmonize as much as possible with its surroundings, the bird cunningly covers the outside with gray lichens. At a little distance it looks exactly like a mossy knot. The inside is often lined with the green, thread-like lichens that grow on dead trees and would deceive even the sharp-eyed squirrels.

The eggs are three or four in number, cream colored, blotched with brown and lilac at the larger end.

THE RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH.

The Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*) occurs in this locality as a spring and fall migrant, although it may be rarely seen in midwinter in company with its white-breasted cousin. It is during the last of April or first of May that we are most apt to see his pleasing little form as he carries a few days in his northward flight. He is by no means plentiful, but transversely, quite the contrary.

Never but once have I noticed them here in winter, and that was on February 22d., 1889. With the thermometer at about 32°, and a brisk, west wind filling the eyes with the snow that was rapidly

(Continued on 2d page.)

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With this issue we complete the first volume of the OSPREY. Hoping we may hear from our old friends and many new ones during the new year and thanking those who have lent us a helping hand in the past, we wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

We are soon to issue a neat pamphlet with colored cover, explaining "Smithwick's Celebrated Method of Taxidermy Treatment." It can be obtained of J. W. P. Smithwick, San Souci, N. C. at twenty-five cents per copy. Be sure to get a copy.

We call especial attention to the "Special Bargains" on last page of C. W. Hillman, proprietor of the Natural History and Art Store, of Canisteo, N. Y. You will reap a rich reward if you send him a trial order. If you do not wish to purchase any articles at present, send your name on a postal card for one of his valuable catalogues, which is sent free. Remember, before you purchase anything, compare his prices with his would-be competitors. We herewith return thanks for specimen received some time since from the above mentioned house.

Notice our exchanges in next column. Perhaps you have something to exchange.

We have been urgently requested to obtain, for a subscriber, the first six issues of the OSPREY. For the same, we will pay three cents each for each issue except January number, for which we will pay five cents. We will consider it a favor if you will kindly respond.

One of the most handsome holiday issues of any amateur publication yet received is The American, of Easton, Md. It had a neat cover artistically printed in three colors. Its twelve pages are filled with interesting articles.

THE RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH.

(Continued from 1st page.)
falling, I leaped over a fence into a woods, having little hopes of seeing anything interesting on such a day. As I did so, I became aware of bird-life in a hemlock standing just before me. There were five or six Chickadees tilting this way and that, hisping and whistling to each other; then came the loud sonorous "quauk" of the White-breasted Nuthatch; and then, another note similar to the last, but not so loud and in a higher tone. Then a Red-breasted Nuthatch came in view from out the thick foliage of the hemlock, and presently, another. They seemed to be gleaning food from the recesses of the hemlock, and were very intent on their work.

This smaller species of the Nuthatch is not much larger than the Chickadees, being about five inches in length. The upper colors on head and back resemble very closely the corresponding colors of

S. carolinensis, but the under parts—how pretty! The throat is white. Thence, all the rest of the under parts are of a beautiful rust-red color, forming a pleasing contrast with the snow-covered ground as he approaches it, running nimbly along the lower rail of some forest-bounding fence. He is, indeed, a pleasing, pretty and a striking form.

Sitta canadensis breeds well to the north of us, as the specific part of his scientific name would naturally suggest.

NEIL FRANKLIN POSSON,
Medina, N. Y.

A CURIOUS SIGHT.

One evening, just at dusk, I was walking through a small wood-lot, when I noticed Don, my dog, nosing something around in a bunch of grass. I started to see what it was, and just then a Woodcock started up, flew a short distance and lit. I immediately called the dog back, thinking he had found a nest of eggs or young birds. I waited a few moments and the old bird flew back and commenced making a low clucking noise. The grass was too high to see her only when she moved. She soon rose and I could plainly see that she had a young bird in her claws. This was repeated three times. She flew but a short distance with the first one, carrying it over the fence into the next woods; the last three she carried about five rods, leaving them in a small patch of wild grass, she then returned and carried the first one to the place in which she had left the others. When she came back each time she would make that peculiar whistling noise with her wings; but when she was carrying a young bird she flew close to the ground and made no noise at all.

I have heard of this curious habit before, but this, was the first and only time I ever saw it done.

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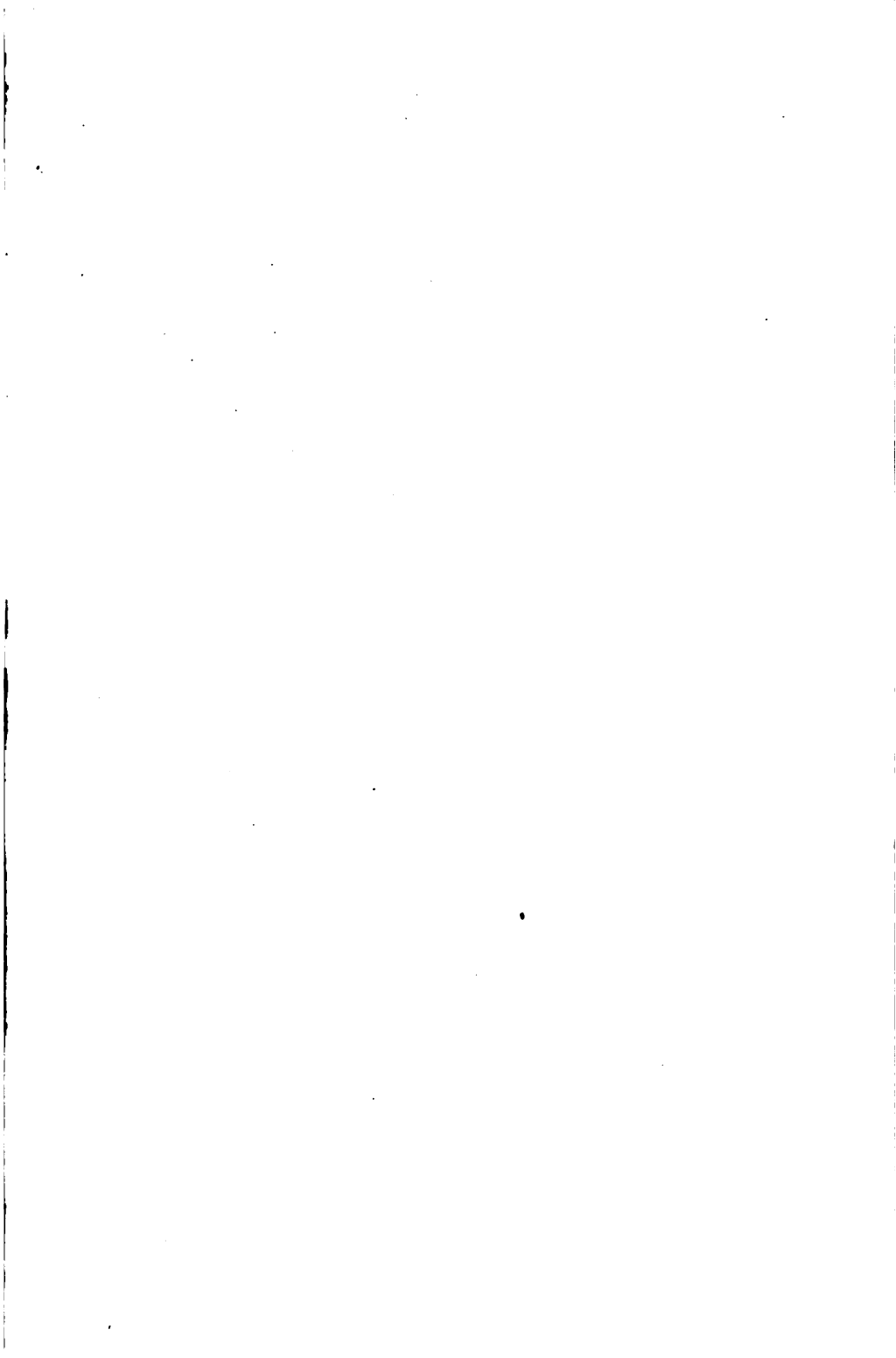
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